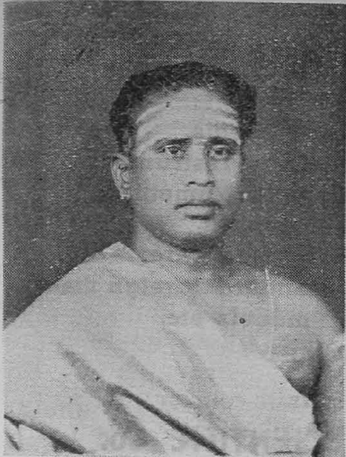


GOVERNMENT COLLEGE,
KUMBAKONAM.

Centenary Souvenir

1854 - 1954


தங்கமெடல்கள் பரிசு பெற்றது
மைதீன்
சிவபுரி
புகையிலை
NO.
96
50 அரையணா
பொட்டலங்கள்
50 HALF ANNA
PACKETS
மைதீன்
புகையிலை
E.S. மைதீன் & கோ., கும்பகோணம்.



கு. ராமஸ்வாமி ஸ்தபதி
திருப்பனந்தாள் ஆதீன சிற்பி.



மணம் நிறைந்த வாழ்க்கை மனிதனின் குறிக்கோள்
குணம் நிறைந்த
டி.எஸ்.ஆர்
வாசனாதிகள்
மணம் கமழவைக்கும்
அரைக்கீரைவிதை
சந்தனாதி
கோகுல் ஹேர்
கோகுல்
கோகுல்
GOKUL HAIR OIL
T.S.R
Ararkeera
T.S.R
Sanda
KUMB
Use our speciality
G. Kunju
T.S.R & Co., Perfumers, KUMBAKONAM.



"LEAD, KINDLY LIGHT, ... LEAD THOU ME ON!"





College Buildings — Old and New.

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE

KUMBAKONAM

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1854 - 1954

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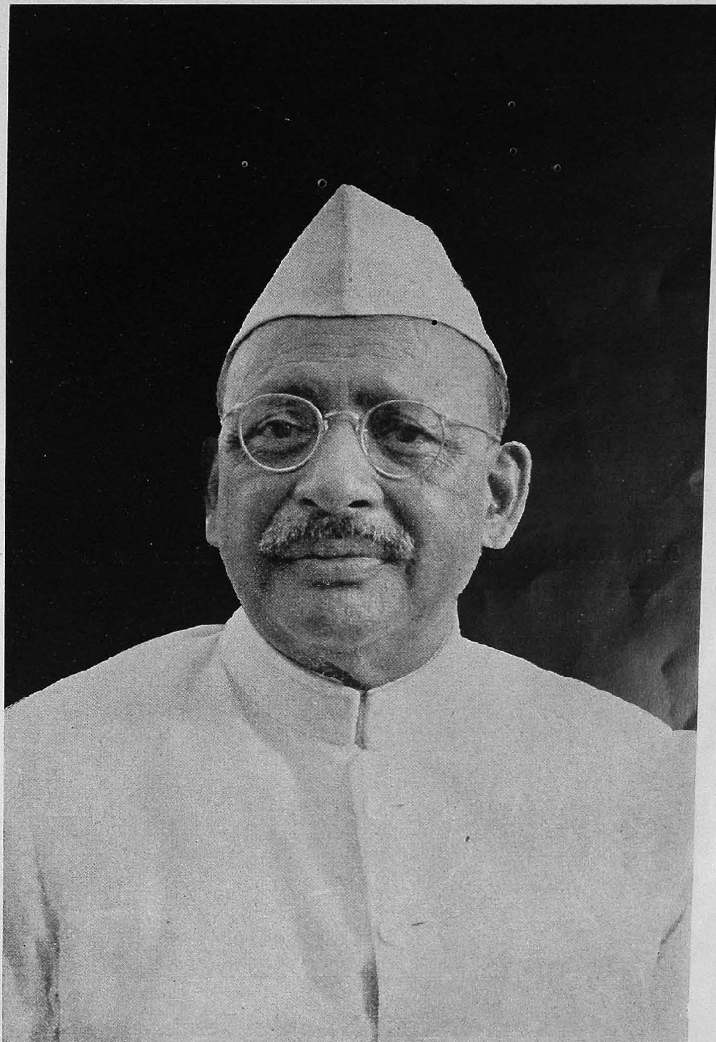
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KUMBAKONAM.

Contents



Sri Sri Prakasa,
Governor of Madras.



THE KUMBAKONAM COLLEGE ARAMANAI RAMAIER BRIDGE



A VIEW ACROSS THE RIVER

Editorial

"Men may come and men may go
But I go on for ever,"

sings the Cauvery, and the College standing on the banks, says in majestic silence, "And so do I." But both the Cauvery and the College have the magic power of transforming all metals into gold; for, how many are the gems fashioned by them and sent forth to light up the wide world!

"Silently one by one, in the infinite meadows of heaven,
Blossomed the lovely stars, the forget-me-nots of the angels."

They shed their benign light from afar, lest we stumble in our way. To them, in love and gratitude, we offer our homage.

This souvenir is intended as a humble tribute to the distinguished Old Boys, Principals and Professors of the College, who have earned for it an honourable position in the educational world and as a commemoration of its completion of a hundred years of service in guiding generations of students and equipping them for their mission in life. The Centenary Celebrations held under the august auspices of the Governor and Ministers of our State, leading educationists and eminent Old Boys, are but the beginning of another era of dedicated service. We are painfully conscious of the limitations in bringing out such a volume to synchronize with the Celebrations, a record of which will necessarily have to be postponed to a later issue. The Old Boys and Professors who figure in the following pages are but a few of the brilliant array of eminent men, each great in his own line, and the articles are memorials and not critical appraisals of their life and work. Their noble example will inspire generations of students in the future to strive for the noblest ideals of life.

Our sincere thanks are due to the several gentlemen who have contributed articles and photos at short notice; to the Registrar, Annamalai University and the Director, All India Radio, Madras, for the blocks kindly lent by them and the Cauvery Colour Press for the efficient and speedy execution of the work.

SECTION I

Messages & the History of the College

Messages

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan,
Vice-President of India:

I am very pleased to know that the Kumbakonam College which has been famous in the educational history in South India will soon celebrate its Centenary. It has produced a large number of very distinguished men, public servants and scholars. I hope in future also it will continue to do so.

* * *

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad,
Minister for Education, India:

I am desired by Maulana Saheb to thank you for your invitation to attend the Centenary Celebrations of your College and to say that he regrets it will not be possible for him to do so, on account of other engagements. He sends his good wishes on the occasion.

* * *

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur,
Minister for Health, India:

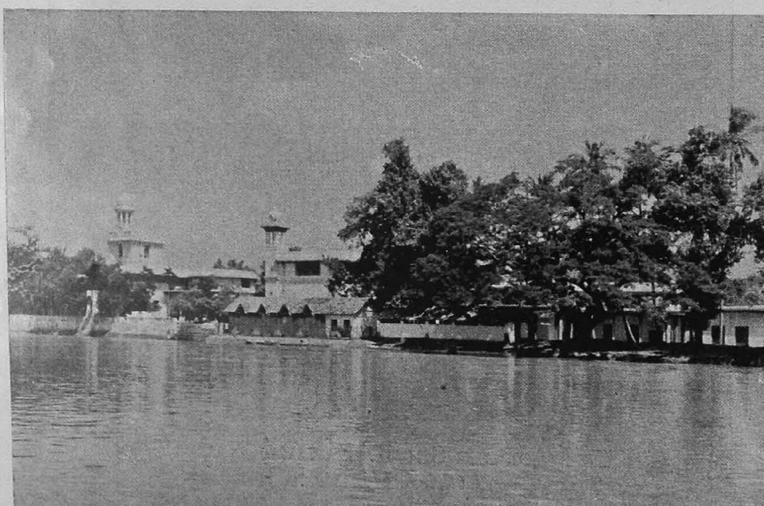
Rajkumari Amrit Kaur is very glad to know that this College, which has produced such eminent men like the late Rt. Hon. V. S. S. Sastri and Ramanujam, is shortly to complete the 100th year of its existence. Much as she would have liked to participate in the Centenary Celebrations she regrets immensely her inability to do so as she has already undertaken to tour West Bengal about this time in response to a long-standing invitation from there. She has asked me to send you her best wishes for the success of the Centenary Celebrations.



THE HON'BLE SRI K. KAMARAJ NADAR,
Chief Minister.



THE NEW ARTS BLOCK



CAUVERI AND THE COLLEGE

SRI CHINTAMAN DESHMUKH,
Minister for Finance, India:

I am desired by Shri Chintaman Deshmukh, Minister for Finance, Government of India, to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter dated the 25th August and to say that he wishes the institution well and felicitates it on the occasion of its Centenary Celebrations.

* * *

SRI SANTHANAM,
Lieutenant Governor, Vindhya Pradesh:

Thank you for the kind invitation to preside on one of the days during the Centenary Celebrations of the Kumbakonam College. I regret that it will not be possible for me to be away from here in October. So, I have to content myself with sending my heartiest felicitations and good wishes to the College on this great occasion.

The Kumbakonam College has played a great part in the life and development of our district and Tamilnad during the last hundred years. I have every hope that its record of service for the next hundred years will be even greater.

* * *

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE M. C. MAHAJAN,
Chief Justice of India:

It is indeed very nice of you to invite me to the Centenary of your College. I wish the celebrations a great success. I very much regret that I shall not be able to be personally present at the great function as it is not possible for me to get out of my court.

* * *

SRI KASTURI SRINIVASAN,
Managing Editor, THE HINDU:

I am grateful to you for your kind invitation to the Centenary Celebrations of the Kumbakonam College early in October. I am afraid I may not be able to attend them owing to other engagements.

I wish the celebrations all success.

SRI. RUKMINI DEVI ARUNDALE:

Thank you for your letter of the 16th instant. I am very glad to know that you have been so successful in gathering so many eminent personalities to preside over various functions during the Centenary Celebrations of the College. I hope all the meetings will go very well.

Wish the Kumbakonam College Centenary every success.

PATTABHI SITARAMAIYA,
Governor, Madhaya Pradesh

ब्रिटिश-शासनकाले अस्मद्देशे संस्थापिताः संस्थाः अधुना एकैकशः अनतिव्यवधानेन स्वीयम् शताब्धीमहोत्सवम् सम्पन्नम् कुर्वन्ति, किन्तु येषां प्रभावम् अनुजीव्य एताः संस्थाः प्रादुरभवन्, ते ब्रिटिशजनाः तु न इदानीम् भारतवर्षे दृष्टिपथम् आयान्ति । भवतु ।

अस्याः संस्थायाः सातत्येन समृद्धये सफलतायै च मे महती स्पृहा इति स्वाभिमतम् प्रकटयति ।

* * *

SRI B. G. KHER,
India's High Commissiner in London

सादरं सस्नेहं च निवेद्यते यत्प्राप्ता निमन्त्रणपत्रिका भवत्प्रेषिता । शतसांवत्सरिकोत्सवः विद्या ीठस्य येन गीर्वाणवाणी शिक्षाकार्यं दीर्घकालं कृतं तस्य अधुना संप्राप्तः इति श्रुत्वा हर्षो मे मनसि समजनि । आशासे यत्पूर्वापेक्षयाप्यधिकं संस्कृतवाक्प्रवाक्प्रसारकार्यं कर्तुं विद्यालयं समर्थं भवेदितः परमिति । सफलं स्यादध्ययनम् । वर्धतां तपः । उत्सवश्च सोत्साहं सहर्षं संपादितः स्यादिति शम् ।

A Century of Progress

In the historic town of Kumbakonam, on the northern bank of the sacred Cauvery, away from the din and dust of the town, a Provincial School started functioning in October 1854, three years before the State Universities of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras were incorporated. The School was then housed in an old pile of buildings given by the Senior Rani of Tanjore. It is said that the real founder of the School was Dewan Bahadur R. Raghunatha Rao whose pial school for teaching English to the children of his friends and neighbours became the nucleus of the Provincial School and later the College. There is reason to believe that, for some time at least, Kumbakonam was the capital of the Chola kings and it appears that Raghunatha, the Nayak King of Tanjore, came here to be crowned on the banks of the sacred river. In the palmy days of the Mahratta Dynasty at Tanjore, the building must have been one of the royal palaces. But by 1854, it was a "straggling one with patched floor, broken doors and windows, and plaster coming off in places."

The new institution was lucky in securing the services of a few young, energetic and high-minded Englishmen and Indians imbued with a missionary zeal to tend it in its infancy. For eight years, Mr. Henry Fortey, Mr. E. C. Caldwell and Mr. T. Marden successively officiated as Headmasters. It was in 1863 that the School came to be associated with Mr. W. A. Porter who, for his untiring work in upgrading it and raising its prestige, will ever be remembered in grateful veneration. A year after his coming, the High School was raised to a Second Grade College and the lowest classes had to be abolished for want of accommodation. It is interesting to note that there were then only four Colleges in the whole of South India, the others being St. Joseph's College, Trichinopoly (1844), Presidency College, Madras (1853), Noble College, Masulipatam (1864), and the Madras Christian College (1865). In 1867 the B. A. classes were opened, and the first batch of students appeared for the B. A. Degree Examination in Mathematics and History in 1869. Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao who

won laurels as the Dewan of Travancore, Mysore and Baroda, had been one of the first batch of our graduates. The results continued to be so splendid that in 1872 the Director of Public Instruction commented that "the College promised to be the Cambridge of South India," and the Government admitted that "judged from the results, the Provincial College, Kumbakonam, takes the foremost place in the Presidency." Among the graduates of the year 1872-73, mention may be made of Mr. B. Hanumantha Rao and Prof. K. Sundararama Iyer, both of whom distinguished themselves as Lecturers in the same College.

Mr. Porter's attention was directed not only towards improving the results at the University Examinations but also the construction of an artistic pile of buildings with a tower in the middle. The new building, in many respects, was a reconstruction of the old one, with very few changes. It may truly be said of him that he found the College brick and left it marble. For about 15 years, except for brief intervals of absence on leave, he presided over the destinies of the College, and his able assistant Mr. Gopala Rao, one of the founder-members of the institution, continued the work during his absence and later acted as Principal for four years (1878 to '82). It was during his time that Philosophy classes were started for the B. A. Course and a Lecturer in Philosophy was appointed (1880).

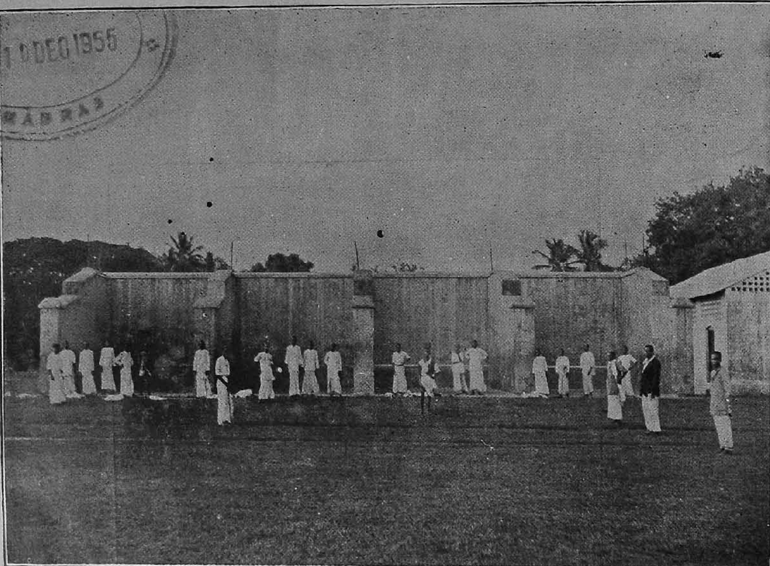
The citizens of Kumbakonam, in loving memory of these two pioneers, have built the Porter Town Hall and the Gopala Rao Library in the heart of the town.

Our next Principal, Mr. G. H. Stuart (who afterwards became Principal, Presidency College, 1892-99, and Director of Public Instruction, Madras) took particular care in beautifying the premises of the College by deepening the pool and clearing it of weeds, by planting a large number of trees and laying a pathway all round the compound. During those days undergraduates wore caps with shirts or coats and the dress regulations were strictly enforced.

In 1885 Mr. J. B. Bilderbeck (who afterwards became Principal, Presidency College, in succession to Mr. Stuart),



Dr. SIR C. P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR,
Vice Chancellor, Annamalai & Banares Universities,
presides over the Inauguration Day, 5-10-54.



The Old Fives Court



The Old Banyan Tree

took over the administration and held that post for three different periods: 1885–87, 1889–90 and 1895–97. The tree-planting work of his predecessor was continued. In 1885 the sanction of the Secretary of State was received for the re-organisation of the College courses so as to enable it to give instruction in all optional subjects of the new Arts Curriculum, excepting Biology. The College provided instruction in Sanskrit and Tamil and in Physical Science, Mathematics, Logic (or Philosophy) and History. The strength of the College in 1887 was 68 in the two B. A. Classes and 178 in the two F. A. classes. In 1889 the College was disaffiliated in Physical Science, which was revived later only in 1916. It was in 1887 that the Subrahmaniam Endowment of Rs. 5000/- was founded. Arrangements were finalized for the award of the Morris Essay Prize for English and the Beauchamp and Mooppanar Prizes for English Composition, Physical Science, Moral Science and Mathematics.

During the period of Mr. J. H. Stone, 1890-94 who subsequently became Principal of the Madras Presidency College (1906 to 1915) and Director of Public Instruction, a dramatic section was started as part of the activities of the Literary Society. The Edward Bird Scholarship was instituted. Football became a popular game. Mr. E. W. Middlemast, Rao Bahadur Sadhu Seshayya, Rao Bahadur C. Nagoji Rao, Mr. A. A. Hall and Mr. J. M. Hensman who acted as Principals during 1894-1900 tried to maintain the high traditions of the College. But by 1897 the strength of the College had fallen to 159 (43 in B. A. classes and 116 in the F. A. classes) and the results of both the F. A. and B. A. Examinations came in for severe criticism at the hands of the Director. The fall in the strength of the College was variously explained, but a glance at the district-war distribution of students then at Presidency College showed that the maximum number of students were attracted to that Metropolitan institution from the Tanjore District. Only Mathematics, History and Physiology were taught for F. A. Philosophy was fast losing its popularity and so it was temporarily abolished in 1898, but resuscitated two years after. Sadhu Seshayya and Pandit Rangachariar who had been associated with the College almost from the beginning of its existence retired in 1897.

From 1898 to 1907 the strength of the College slowly but steadily rose to 237 but it sounds strange to us that the Principal should complain, "The F. A. classes are unmanageably large." The results at University Examinations continued to be "unsatisfactory" and "very disappointing." Mathematics had given way to History in the matter of popularity. The construction of the Victoria Jubilee Hostel was rapidly progressing. In that year Mr. J. M. Hensman retired after a long period of service most of which was confined to the Kumbakonam College.

When Principal Duncan was transferred to Presidency College, Rao Bahadur C. Nagoji Rao again acted as Principal. The Hostel, after 18 years of spade work, was opened on 1st August 1905 with Sri P. V. Seshu Iyer as the first Superintendent. The cost was met partly from subscriptions and partly from Provincial Funds.

Mr. T. O. Hodges who became Principal in 1906 was no lover of spoon-feeding and examinations. Work in the Library was encouraged and the number of formal lectures was lessened. The Principal encouraged the students to read extensively and cultivate the habit of making digests of what was read. In 1908 the College was affiliated in Group I (Mathematics and Science) for the B. A. The Library was shifted to its present abode and the rooms (now 7 & 8) were converted into a Laboratory. Apparatus worth about Rs. 14,000/- was got directly from England and practical work in Physics and Chemistry was arranged for. The pioneering work of Mr. T. K. Hanumantha Rao, Lecturer in Physical Science, cannot be too highly praised. Mr. Hodges's strictness in detentions and promotions was warmly supported by the Director, who commented, "The report bears evidence of progress in almost every direction. The Principal is sparing no pains to infuse the true academic spirit into the staff and students and turn out men and not merely graduates." In 1906 the results were brilliant and the College regained its glory in academic distinction.

In 1910 when Mr. Hodges was transferred as Inspector of Schools, Mr. J. A. Yates was appointed Principal. The strength of the College was now only 127. A sum of Rs. 97,500 was sanctioned by Government for the construction of new buildings

and improvements to the old ones. Plans and estimates for the construction of quarters for the Principal were approved and a sum of Rs. 14,050 was sanctioned, but the idea was finally abandoned in 1911. Mr. Yates found himself cramped for want of space both in the playgrounds and the laboratories, and set to work with indefatigable energy in putting up temporary sheds for class-rooms and in acquiring the ground lying east to the College as far as the present boundary wall. But practically no games except Tennis could be played because the new grounds had not been levelled and the other parts were covered with materials for the construction of the present English Hall (Room 23) and the Physics Block. But before Mr. Yates left the institution in 1914, he had the satisfaction of seeing his labours crowned with success. The new blocks of buildings comprising the present Room No. 23 and the Physics laboratory and workshop were completed by the end of 1913 and for the first time in the history of the College, the Principal could speak with pride of the grounds and games equipment. A great variety of subjects was offered in the Intermediate Course—Mathematics, Physics & Chemistry; Ancient History, Modern History and Logic. The Principal was congratulated on "the continued efficiency" as indicated in the results. Principal Yates was primarily responsible for the introduction of Hockey in this College. Besides, he constructed a Gymnasium and set up a Fives Court. Compound walls were erected to the North and East of the compound and at the main gate a lodge was constructed for the 'groundman' to prevent cattle from straying into the playgrounds. In the hot and humid climate of Kumbakonam, Mr. Yates found it necessary to fit up punkahs in a few rooms, and this relic of ancient days still continues in the College fighting a heroic battle against the upstart electric fans which threaten to take their place.

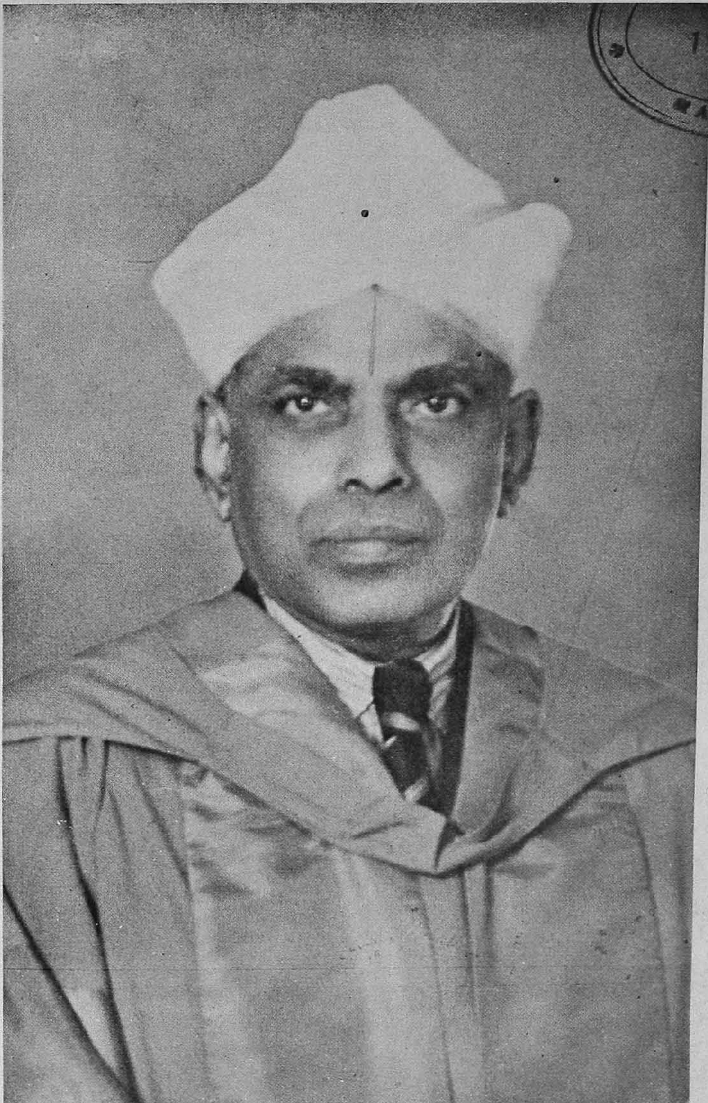
A great stride was taken in the expansion of the College during the time of Mr. R. M. Statham. With the untiring energy of a young man, he threw himself heart and soul into the many-sided development of the College. He roused the public of Kumbakonam to action and an Old Boys' Association was formed, which has, ever since, taken an abiding interest in the affairs of their *Alma Mater* and secured several endowments for scholarships and prizes to aid and encourage poor and deserving

students. The first Old Boys' Day was celebrated in April 1915. It was under his aegis that the Kumbakonam College Magazine (then called the Journal of the Kumbakonam College Literary Society) was started. The Magazine has been the organ of the College Union and it has fulfilled in ample measure its object of being "a memory of the past and a mirror for the present, a link between old and new."

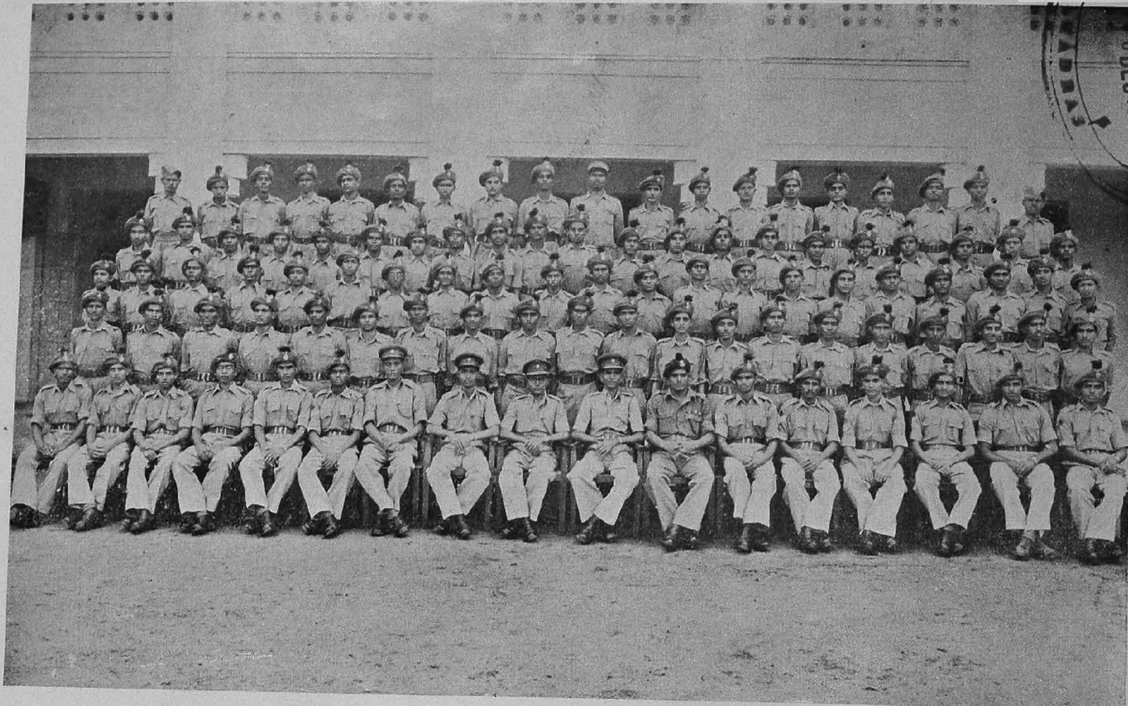
The old Boat Club which had been long defunct was revived by Rao Sahib P. Rajagopala Iyer, Lecturer in Physics, with the support and blessings of Mr. Statham, and the Canoe Club attached to our College is now one of its unique features. Sir Henry Stone, Director of Public Instruction, in his review of the Administration report for 1915-16, praised the Principal for "the great interest taken by Mr. Statham in regard to the Physical culture of the students."

Mr. Statham quickened the Dramatic Club into new life and since then for several years the staging of Shakespeare has been a regular feature of the extra-curricular work of the College. A Musical Society was brought into being, but it does not seem to have survived long after the departure of Mr. Statham. The Students' Co-operative Society was started under his guidance.

Mr. Statham strongly condemned the system of study which encouraged the cramming of notes and reproducing them without assimilating the substance. He exercised great tact in smoothly tiding over the political crisis and its inevitable influence upon academic life. He bitterly complained against the insanitary conditions of the town which led to the prevalence of elephantiasis and the sporadic outbreak of cholera and smallpox. In spite of financial stringency brought about by the war, additional buildings were put up, new courses started and additional staff—teaching and clerical—appointed. Tamil and Sanskrit now came to be taught under Group VI, though the groups seem to have never attracted any large number of students. In 1916, Physical Science (Group II A) which had been abolished in 1889 was revived and the Departments of Physics and Chemistry were re-organised under separate Chief Lecturers. The new Chemistry Laboratory built at a cost



Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar
Vice-Chancellor, Madras University.



OFFICERS AND CADETS OF THE COLLEGE NATIONAL CADET CORPS.

of about Rs. 24000 was completed in 1919 and the Chemistry Department was shifted to its new habitation. Mr. Statham had the generosity to report that it was "an imposing addition bearing the zealous care of Mr. T. K. Hanumantha Rao." After Mr. Porter and Rao Sahib T. Gopala Rao, the College is most indebted to the fostering care of Mr. Statham who continued to cherish this affection all his life.

Rao Sahib P. Rajagopala Iyer is best remembered as the father of the Canoe Club and even before he became Principal, he had received congratulations from the Director "on his successful initiation of water sports." He was able to build and launch several canoes and to conduct the first annual Regatta in 1919. He put up a rivetment on the river bank to prevent erosion. Basket-ball was introduced. In magnanimous humility he admitted that his predecessor "showed the way as to how a College could be a living reality." It was Mr. Rajagopala Iyer who first conceived the idea of forming a College Union as "a federation of all College Societies" which conducted contests in elocution and essay both in English and Tamil, and staged English, Tamil and Sanskrit dramas. The first College Day was celebrated in 1920 with Sir C. Sankaran Nair as President. During the Mahamakam Festival the Principal took the initiative in organizing a volunteer corps to help the huge concourse of pilgrims and it is needless to say these volunteers were the forerunners of our Social Service League. The fame of the College steadily rose and students from distant Malabar and Travancore were attracted to it. For several years a separate mess was conducted for the sake of the Malabar boys. The Seshayya Sastri fund was instituted for the award of a silver medal to the student who secured the highest number of marks in Mathematics in the Intermediate Examination. In 1921, with the advent of a popular ministry, an admission committee was constituted for regulating the admissions to the College. The strength of the College had steadily increased and at the end of 1922–23 it was 347.

Mr. P. V. Seshu Iyer, I. E. S., who was the first Indian to be confirmed in that office, took charge in February 1924 and continued the work of his predecessors in extending the rivetment to the eastern side and in promoting the literary

and histrionic activities of the College Union. In his time, Mr. T. K. Hanumantha Rao retired, but before retirement, he laboured hard on the preparation of a revised and up-to-date catalogue of the books in the library. A Rover troop was started under Mr. Damodara Kini who had been appointed in the vacancy of Mr. Hanumantha Rao.

Mr. M. C. S. Ananthapadmanabha Rao's period (1927 to 1929) witnessed the entry into the College of our first woman student (1928) who must have felt terribly ill at ease in the midst of about 300 boys. The Intermediate courses of study were re-organised and Indian History became a subject of study in this College for the first time. The first science exhibition to be organised in this College was in 1928-29. The library catalogue was revised and printed.

Mr. S. E. Ranganathan who succeeded as Principal held that office only for a few days. Dr. S. R. U. Savoor took over charge on 24th June 1929. The first appointment of a Physical Director was in 1930. The partition which divided the present English Lecture Hall into separate Lecture rooms was removed for conducting meetings, and a permanent dais was put up at the eastern part of it to serve as a stage. The gallery in the present Library Hall was completed in 1930. Dr. Savoor raised a pathway to the south of the Library (now enclosed to serve as a reading room) with a terraced roof over it. The Adult Night School was inaugurated on 3rd November 1930. The Diamond Jubilee of the College was celebrated with great enthusiasm from 19th to 25th January 1931. The Rt. Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastri English Oratorical contest, open to all Colleges in the Districts of South Arcot, Tanjore Tiruchirapally, Ramnad and Madurai, was first held in 1930-31.

Dr. Savoor was followed for short intervals by Mr. K. R. Ramaswami Ayyangar, I. E. S., Mr. K. S. Patrachariar, Mr. M. S. H. Thompson, I. E. S. and Mr. Statham until in January 1932, Mr. A. Chakravarti, I. E. S. took charge. The Mathematics-Chemistry Extension (the present Rooms No. 14 & 15) was completed in February 1932 and the present Canoe Shed in March.

In 1932 Philosophy was abolished as a subject for B. A. In 1936 Mrs. Kamala Rangachari endowed four scholarships in memory of her late lamented husband Dr. S. Rangachari, one of the most distinguished 'Old Boys' of our College. During the time of Mr. Chakravarti, the strength of the College continued to fall until at last in 1937 it reached the alarmingly low figure of 175, and it was feared that the institution would be ultimately closed. The crisis was, however, averted and thereafter the strength of the College rose steadily, and to-day we have on our rolls 1023 students.

In February 1937, Prof. K. S. Patrachariar (Mathematics) retired after 35 years of meritorious service and in September Prof. K. S. Vaidyanatha Ayyar (English). "The Director can testify from personal knowledge to the high standard of Sri Vaidyanatha Ayyar's professional work and personal example," was the tribute of Mr. Papworth.

Mr. C. N. Ganapathy Iyer succeeded to the Principalship of the College in July 1938 when Mr. Chakravarti retired. With the retirement of Mr. P. Narasimham, the post of Lecturer in Philosophy was abolished, but Gr. III B. Philosophy was introduced for the B. A. Course. The results were "very satisfactory" and showed "distinct improvement." Thanks to the zeal of Sri N. Ramani, Lecturer in English, and the collaboration of other members of the staff, the books in the Library were thoroughly classified and the present revised catalogue was issued in 1940. It was then that the ticket system was introduced for issue of books. The Students' Co-operative Society was placed in Class "A" instead of "B". The Pranatharthihara Iyer Prize for our best Mathematician in the B. A. or B. Sc. examination was endowed by his son Sri M. P. Sitarama Iyer.

In 1942, Dr. K. C. Chakko joined duty as Principal. His regime was marked by a steady rise in the strength of the College. Except for the solitary phenomenon of a girl student in 1928-30, the College was monopolized by the stronger sex till 1943 when about ten women students came in for higher education. Owing to the War, practically no improvements or extensions could be sanctioned by the Government for some years, and if Dr. Chakko was

able to put up a bridge across the Cauvery in 1913, it was due to the munificence of Sri Aramanai Ramaiyer. Dr. Chakko was successful in getting sanction for organising a contingent of the newly formed U. O. T. C. and infusing a military spirit into our students. The Dr. U. V. Swaminatha Iyer Tamil oratorical contest was first instituted in 1943 by the Tamil Peravai and this competition, like the Rt. Hon'ble V. S. S. Sastri English oratorical contest, is now being conducted by the College Union on an inter-collegiate basis to perpetuate the memory of that great scholar.

When Principal Chakko's services were lent to the Annamalai University, Sri T. M. Margasahayam Chettiar officiated as Lecturer-in-charge. B. Sc. Classes with Mathematics and Physics as Main subjects started work in July 1945. In the same year, when the Director of Public Instruction, Dr. Savoor, visited the College, the Old Boys waited in deputation on him and urged the necessity for introducing Chemistry as the Main subject for the B. Sc. Course, Natural Science for the Intermediate Course and Honours Courses in Mathematics and Philosophy. By the beginning of the next year, the new Natural Science Block was completed and the long-felt deficiency of Group. II. in the Intermediate Course was made good with 48 students.

Dr. Karamchand Wade, who took over charge as Principal, in 1946, was a talented and humorous speaker. In his time the College was affiliated in Chemistry as a Main subject for B. Sc.

Sri D. Namasivayam's Principalship (July 1948 to August 1951) witnessed a rapid increase in the number of students on our rolls. The various Associations were quickened into activity, and their working was regulated and systematised. Student representatives were encouraged to take initiative in extra-curricular and athletic activities and thus opportunity was offered for self-government and leadership. The U. O. T. C. was replaced by a contingent of N. C. C. with a sanctioned strength of 5 officers and 155 other ranks. The Adult Night School was re-organised and brought under the Social Service League. A separate day came to be allotted for the annual



The Hon'ble Sri. C. SUBRAMANIAM,
Minister for Education.



THE REGATTA

celebration of the birthday of Ramanujan, the Mathematical prodigy who fixed Kumbakonam on the educational map of the world. Prof. K. Aravamudha Iyengar (History) retired in 1948. Prof. N. R. Kedari Rao (English) and Prof. G. Ramachandra Iyer (Mathematics) retired in 1949.

It was in July 1949 that for the first time in our history a lady joined the teaching staff of the College when the number of women students was 20. Though the percentage of women students was low at first, the number has steadily increased and we have now reached the sanctioned strength.

The College was confronted with the problem of accommodating the swelling numbers in each class. The building intended for about 300 students had now to provide accommodation for nearly 1000. Plans and estimates for the construction of a new building at a cost of Rs. 2·8 lakhs were submitted to Government, but before sanction was accorded, the cost of building materials had risen and the estimates had to be revised and raised to 3·6 lakhs. The imposing new Arts Block was completed in a considerably short period of time, and was formally opened in February 1952 by Sri T. K. Palaniappan, I. A. S., Collector of Tanjore.

In August 1951 Sri D. Namasivayam was transferred to Coimbatore and since then Sri T. N. Bhima Rao, Sri V. Narayanaswami and Sri V. Gowrisankaran successively officiated as Lecturers-in-Charge for about a year. On 1st August 1952 Major (then Captain) S. Parthasarathi took over the administration. The Principal moved into the new Block and the Principal's old room directly overlooking the river was placed at the disposal of the Staff Social Club. The old Office room was vacated for the sectional library attached to the Chemistry Department. A spacious hall in the new buildings was allotted to the N. C. C. and the Lecturers in English, Tamil, Mathematics and Economics occupied separate rooms in the Arts Block. Thus the congestion against which we have been struggling for several years was greatly relieved.

With an unswerving will, a love of regularity, order and discipline and a great capacity for sustained work, Major

S. Parthasarathi infused a new spirit into the members of staff and exhorted the students to take the maximum benefit from their stay at the College. Guardians were periodically informed of their wards' conduct and their progress in studies. His love of beauty and neatness manifested itself in the raising of gardens and the planting of trees.

To-day the strength of the College is 1023, including 55 women and 36 Harijans. The strength of the teaching staff, excluding the Principal, is 6 Lecturers in the Madras Educational Service, 30 Assistant Lecturers, 19 Demonstrators and Tutors, 1 Physical Director and 1 Physical Training Instructor. The clerical strength is 11 including 1 Librarian, 1 Mechanic, 1 Store-keeper and one Sergeant. As this is the only College in this large and enlightened district there is considerable scope for expansion not so much in number as in a diversification of courses of studies and in the provision of a spacious Meeting-and-Examination Hall and a Reading Room. The University has taken up a stand which does not approve of the starting of Honours Courses in the mofussil, but affiliation can be sought for in Geography, Elements of Commerce and Electrical Engineering for the Intermediate, and Geography, Commerce Psychology, Botany, and Zoology for the Degree Classes.

Government College, Kumbakonam, is a proud mother who reckons as her sons several men who have made their mark in life. If the record of the past is so glorious, the future in the wake of our national Independence is bound to be pregnant with great possibilities. Now that the chronicler has come to the end of his task, he cannot help trying to peer with his bleared eyes into the distant future; the firmament behind is studded with many bright stars but, looking forward, one sees a bright galaxy, each member being indistinguishable, but all together producing a bright halo and extending beyond the limits of mortal vision.

V. G. N.



THE HON'BLE SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM,
Minister for Agriculture.



RAJA SIR M. A. MUTHIA CHETTIAR,
unveils the portrait of
Sir P. S. Sivaswami Ayyar, 9-10-54.

SECTION II

Old Boys

॥ श्रीः ॥

॥ प्रशस्तिपञ्चकम् ॥

कावेरी प्रवहन्त्यसौ विभजते द्वेधा प्रदेशानिमान्
प्रब्रूते च सदा तरङ्गनिनदैरेवं जनौघान् कलम् ।
वित्तासक्तधियश्चरन्तु विवशा वामेतरस्थे पुरे
विद्यासक्तधियस्तु सदनं गच्छन्तु सव्यस्थितम् ॥ ॥ १ ॥

गेहेऽस्मिन् सततं पठन्ति विविधान् ग्रन्थानमी ग्रन्थिनो
नावाऽसौ प्लवते कवेरतनयास्रोतो वटुर्निर्भयः ।
पश्येमां विपुलां विहारवसुधां श्यामां तृणाच्छादितां
क्रीडन्तेऽत्र कुमारकाः प्रतिदिनं सायं मिथः कन्दुकैः ॥ ॥ २ ॥

मैत्रेयीति सती कदाचिदभवद्वैराग्यमाश्रित्य या
भर्तारं नियमेन संसृतिविनिर्मुक्तिं ययाचे पुरा ।
मैत्रेय्यो बहवस्समक्षमधुना विद्यैकभूषारताः
सेवन्तेऽत्र समागताः सनियमं काव्यानि शास्त्राणि च ॥ ॥ ३ ॥

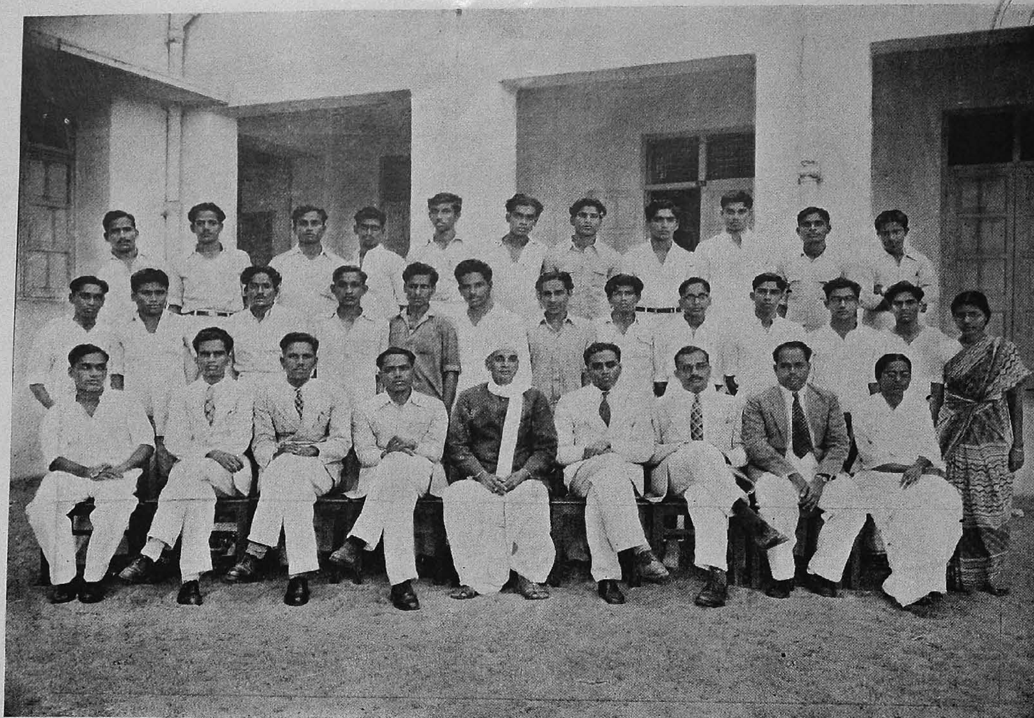
आसीदत्र पुरा शमे निरुपमो रामानुजाख्यः सुधी-
र्विख्यातो गणिते समानरहितः सर्वेषु देशेष्वपि ।
यं लब्ध्वा प्रतिभाविभूषितमिहच्छात्रं महावर्चसं
विद्यागेहमिदं प्रशस्तमधुना तोष्टूयते सर्वतः ॥ ॥ ४ ॥

साहित्यं सरसं सलक्षणमपि न्यायं च पाश्चात्यकं
विज्ञानं विविधं चराचरगतं तत्त्वं परं भौतिकम् ।
तेजश्शब्दगतीस्तथैव निखिलां सौदामनीकान्तयोः
शक्तिं चात्र सरस्वती विजयतां संज्ञापयन्त्यन्वहम् ॥ ॥ ५ ॥

Rao Saheb M. R. Rajagopala Ayyangar,
M.A. L.T., M.E.S. (Retired)



THE HON'BLE RAJA SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHY AVL.,
Minister for Public Works.



THE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, 1954—55.

Sir P. S. Sivaswami Ayyar

Born on the 7th February 1864, Mr. Sivaswami Ayyar was the eldest among the four sons of Mr. Sundaram Ayyar, a native of Pazhamaneri village, who was practising as a lawyer at Tanjore. He received his early education at the S. P. G. High School there and studied English under Dr. Marsh, an eminent educationist to whom he used to refer with affection and respect. It was in those days that an intimate friendship commenced between him and the late Mr. V. Krishnaswami Ayyar, so intimate indeed that (to use his own words) they were regarded as 'inseparables' and they were referred to as the 'Siamese twins' by Mr. Thompson, the Principal of the Presidency College (Madras), which they joined for their B. A. course after completing their First in Arts Course at the Government College, Kumbakonam. This close Association between the two friends seems to have lasted about ten years; thereafter, the temperamental differences between the two evidently became too pronounced to permit the continuance of the same relationship. After taking his Law Degree, Mr. Sivaswami Ayyar joined Mr. Balajee Row as an apprentice-at-law. He has said that he joined Mr. Row both because Mr. Row was a friend of his father and also because 'he thought it desirable to acquire some knowledge of practice on the Original Side'. He was enrolled in 1885. His practice at the bar did not perhaps grow as rapidly as that of some of his contemporaries, but by the beginning of the new century he had come to hold a respected position. He was one of the joint Editors of the Madras Law Journal between 1893 and 1907 (the other Editors being Messrs. Krishnaswami Ayyar and Sundara Ayyar) and he represented the Madras University Constituency in the local Legislative Council between 1904 and 1907. Towards the end of 1907, he was appointed Advocate-General and he held that office till February 1912 when he was appointed a member of the Governor's Executive Council. When he retired from the Council early in 1917, he had to decide whether to resume practice at the bar or not. Though he was only 53 at the time, he decided not to do so. He spent the remaining 29 years of his life in cultured retirement except for the three years (1920 to 23) during which he served as a nominated member of the Imperial

Legislative Council. It used to be said that he was once asked by the late Professor Ranganatha Mudaliar what he would like to do if he had the option and the opportunity to do as he liked and he replied that he would be happy to find himself in a good library reading when and what he pleased. It is therefore no wonder that he preferred to spend the years of his retirement as a student of literature, both English and Sanskrit. He had collected a good library; he was such a great lover of books that he insisted on their being handled carefully and delicately. And even during the busy years of his professional life, he found some time every day (and more time on holidays) to devote to his favourite studies.

His interests and activities were many-sided; but it seems proper to refer first to his life at the bar. It will be no exaggeration to say that he set for himself the highest standard of professional conduct. Glimpses of what his views on the subject were may be gathered from observations made by him in the course of the lectures which he delivered to the apprentices in law during 1918, under the title 'Reminiscences of the Bar' (published in the Madras Law Journal). He held that an advocate must not identify himself with his client but must cultivate a sense of detachment even while sympathizing with the client and trying to do his best for him. His sense of an advocate's responsibility and duty to the Court was so high that on one occasion he felt bound to bring to the notice of the Court an authoritative ruling which was adverse to his client's case, even when the other side seemed to be unaware of it. The client inevitably lost his case as a result, but the presiding Judge (Sir Subramanya Ayyar) expressed his appreciation of Mr. Sivaswami Ayyar's sense of responsibility. He had a scrupulous sense of fairness and insisted that no advocate should be harassed by interruptions in the course of his argument. His arguments were the result of careful preparation; he relied on the merits of his arguments and never attempted to be rhetorical or to carry the Judges as it were by storm. He would not allow himself to be hustled even by impatient Judges; slow and deliberate in speaking, he was punctilious about the correctness of his language and his pronunciation. He was ready to show his appreciation of the assistance that he received from his juniors whom he helped generously and unostentatiously; he took a parental interest in them and encouraged

them to have confidence in themselves and in their future. On one occasion he referred to Mr. Venkatarama Sastriar as his 'first-born'; when there was a chance of Mr. Sastriar being tempted to accept official appointment as a Subordinate Judge, he gently chided him, expressing his own conviction that he was bound, in due course, to become one of the leaders of the bar. When Mr. Varadachariar felt diffident about joining the legal profession, Mr. Sivaswami Ayyar encouraged him not only by promising to help him during his early years at the bar but also by giving expression to his own high expectations as to his future. In due course, Messrs. Sastriar and Varadachariar were treated by him as his friends and confidants and (along with his nephew Mr. Justice P. N. Ramaswami Ayyar) they were appointed executors of his will. Though affable and courteous to all, Mr. Sivaswami Ayyar extended his friendship only to a few persons, chief among whom being Mr. V. S. Srinivasa Sastriar and Mahamahopadhyaya Kuppuswami Sastriar.

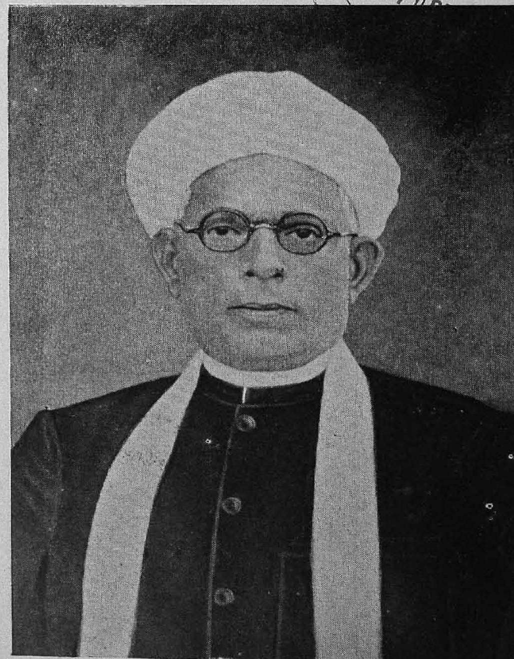
The years during which he held office as Advocate-General and as member of the Council were among the least agreeable to high-minded Indians associated with officers in authority. The European heads of administration now and again expressed their regret that on many matters Mr. Sivaswami Ayyar was not able to see eye to eye with them. For instance, he insisted that Government should not rely on the plea of limitation or on other technical pleas when citizens claimed refund of taxes which had been illegally levied but this view did not commend itself to the Government of the day. His tenure as member of Council lay almost wholly in the period of an entirely unsympathetic administration, that of Lord Pentland; he could do little more than place his views on record, with courage and independence. In politics he belonged to the 'Liberal' School; though his participation in politics was not very active, he did not hesitate to express his views firmly and clearly whenever occasion called for it. He presided over one of the Provincial Conferences in this Presidency and over two sessions of the National Liberal Federation. As a member of the Legislative Council both here and in Delhi, he was listened to with respect because he spoke only after a deep and careful study of the subject under discussion. His lectures on 'The Indian Constitutional Problems' bear evidence of his deep study and penetrating insight.

Himself a lover of culture, he took an abiding interest in education. He was for several years a member of the Senate of the Madras University and later became Vice-Chancellor of the University; in 1932, the University conferred on him the LL. D. Degree *honoris causa*. For some time he was also Vice-Chancellor of the Benares University. He made munificent donations (amounting to several lacs) to the Boys' High School at Tirukkattupalli and to the Girls' High School at Mylapore, and throughout his life he evinced a keen interest in their efficient working. He was a great lover of Sanskrit, well versed both in classical literature and in the *Sastras*. In collaboration with Messrs. Krishnaswami Iyer and Kuppuswami Sastriar, he was responsible for the introduction of the *Siromani* course. When the funds endowed by the Tanjore Rajas for the encouragement of Sanskrit studies were in danger of being diverted to other purposes, he used his influence to avert the danger for the time being. In his general outlook, Sir Alladi Krishnaswami Iyer rightly described him as 'a conservative wedded to progress'. His intellectual approach was rationalistic but his nature was too deeply rooted in the ancient heritage of the country to permit him to depart very far from moderate orthodoxy. This will be seen from his lectures on 'The Evolution of Hindu Moral Ideas'. Classics like the *Ramayana*, the *Mahabharatha* and the *Bhagavatham* strongly appealed to him but he found it difficult to say whether the appeal was 'literary' or 'religious'. About his religious faith, he said, (quoting Tennyson) I am "like a child, crying in the night, crying for light." He regretted that the light he yearned for was not vouchsafed to him. Surveying his whole life, no happier description of it could be given than that contained in the following tribute paid by Mr. Srinivasa Sastriar. He was a "man of wide culture, amiable disposition and innate courtesy, with an inflexible love of justice and a keen sense of honour, having large and enlightened benefactions to his credit, able to look back on many years devoted to the pursuit of high aims and the doing of things that are clean and of good repute, a man to admire, cherish and present to the young as a shining example".

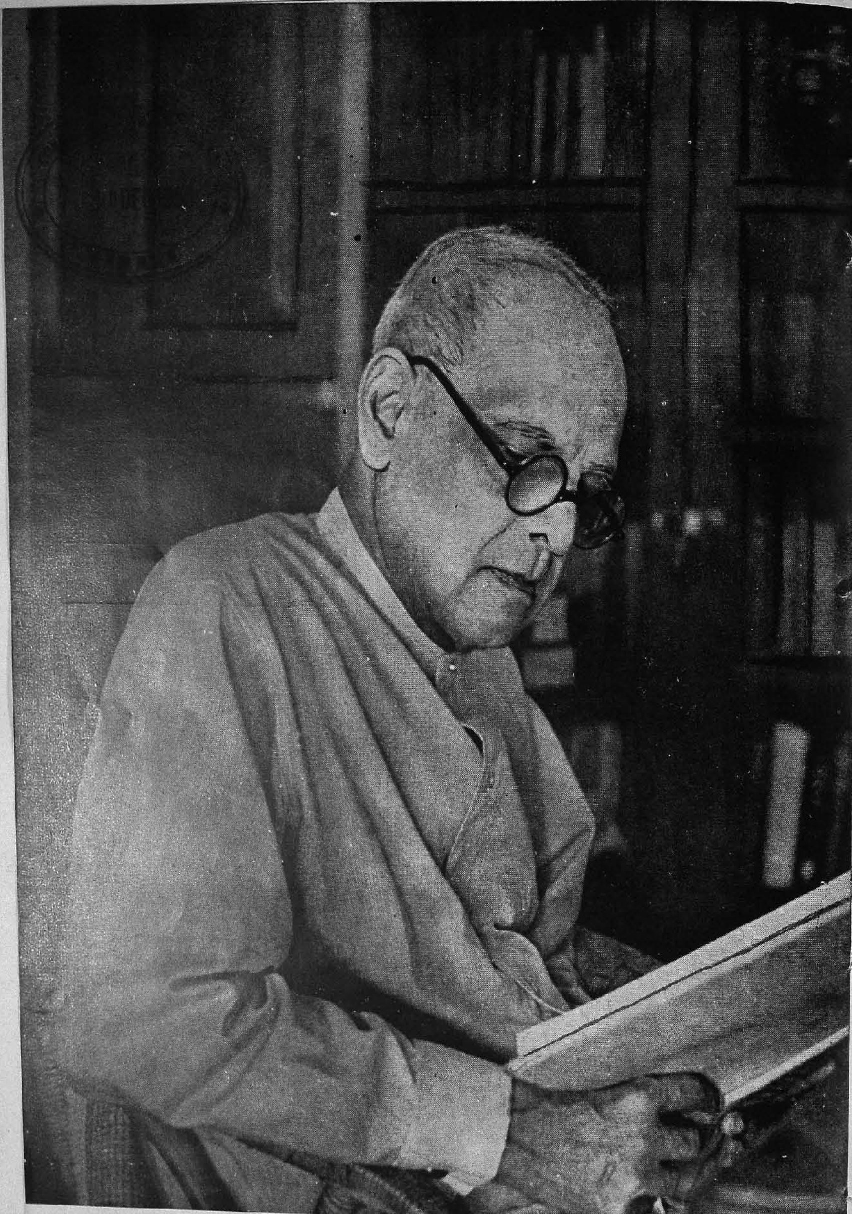
Sir S. Varadachariar



Sir P. S. Sivaswami Ayyar



T. R. Venkatarama Sastri



The Rt. Hon'ble V. S. SRINIVASA SASTRI

The Rt. Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastri

Some time in 1912 when I was a youth of twenty still studying for my M. A. examination in Madras Christian College, I had the good fortune to meet Sri V. S. Srinivasa Sastri for the first time. It was only a few years after he had joined the Servants of India Society and his great fame and eminence were still in the future. From that day to the last moment of his noble life it was my privilege to stand in a close personal relation with him, to be indeed counted as a member of his family, as he once wrote to me. Alike as a novice in the 'endless adventure' on which he had embarked and as a trusted Privy Councillor and Companion of Honour of His Majesty the King of England and trusted ambassador of the mighty British Empire, he evinced the same human qualities of sympathy, of understanding, grace of manner and unerring courtesy to all who went to him for anything.

He did everything with the eye and the hand of an artist who combined in himself all that was best in the cultures of the East and West. His calligraphy was excellent; he found little use for amanuensis or stenographer, and insisted on writing out his own letters and even notes and memoranda. And what a glorious letter writer he was! Even a post-card containing nothing more than an acknowledgement or an intimation of his movements did not fail to carry its own mark of distinction.

My first meeting with V. S. S. Sastri was in connection with a plan I entertained with four other friends—the "five M. A.'s of Tinnevelly" as they came to be called by supporters and opponents alike—of running the Hindu College, Tinnevelly (now the M. D. T. Hindu College) on the lines of the Fergusson College, Poona. The scheme was tried for five years (1913—18) and then given up; it never had a fair trial as people had accepted it, as it became clear later, with mental reservations. The five years were a time of strain and stress, and Sastri had a large share in guiding us along with his dear friends the late Prof. K. B. Ramanathan and Sri. P. K. Subba Aiyar of the P. W. D. Secretariat, still fortunately with us. At last, Sastri decided that we had to leave the

College to itself, as the scheme had proved a failure and we had lost everything we stood for except our honour. Later he helped me on his own initiative to secure a place in the History Department of the Benares Hindu University of which his great friend Sir P. S. Sivaswami Aiyer was then Vice-Chancellor. He also took an interest, as I learnt from common friends (I never got the details from him in spite of repeated attempts) in my being chosen for the Principalship of the Sri Minakshi College (now the Annamalai University) started by Sir Annamalai Chettiar at Chidambaram in 1920. I recall with much gratification that in the midst of all his wanderings and high preoccupations he never allowed many months to elapse without vouchsafing some sign—generally a letter, at times a fine picture card—that he had not forgotten me. And when the time came for my choosing a place to live in in Madras, the fact that he was residing in Edward Elliot's Road together with his two most valued friends, Sir Sivaswami Aiyar and Sri. T. R. Venkatarama Sastri, had no small share in determining my choice. It was one of the major good fortunes of my life that I was privileged to live in the vicinity of all of them together for well over a decade.

Born of a poor family, simple in his habits by nature, he took the vow of poverty early in life when he entered the Servants of India Society under the inspiration he got from Gokhale and, it is said, against the protests of some of his friends and relations. There were occasions when, in spite of the loving care and forethought of friends in relatively more affluent circumstances, particularly of T. R. V. Sastri, he had to forego the amenities of a comfortable life; never, however, did this seem to influence his thoughts or outlook in the slightest degree. Even his physical ailments (it is known that for several years at the end he was the victim of angina pectoris) did not depress him. He considered cheerfulness almost as a compulsory social duty and was ever ready to meet the numerous visitors of all sorts who crowded on him, put them at ease and even entertain them on their own level. He had a marvellous capacity to raise the estimate each visitor had of himself and to soothe ruffled emotions and to shed a benign peace on his surroundings.

But he was no stranger to indignation or even anger when the occasion for it came. On public questions he was

always willing to yield on details but would never compromise on matters of principle. His was, he himself once acknowledged the correctness of the description, of a cross-bencher mind; unkind critics were not wanting to tell him to his face that he always saw so much more of the other fellow's point of view as to forget his own; but this was a caricature, and he had only a silent smile when he heard such criticism. He must have suppressed many retorts that must have occurred to his well-stocked mind and nimble wit; he shunned controversy at all costs, though in his earlier days he was not above entering the lists in the cause of social reform. In politics he was more or less an extremist among moderates and a moderate among extremists. He was close friends with Mahatma Gandhi though their political opinions and strategy were poles apart. He sometimes incurred the ill will of persons who missed the point of his harmless jokes, and later in life, when he had learnt the lesson, he was never tired of warning his younger friends like me that in India one makes a joke at one's peril.

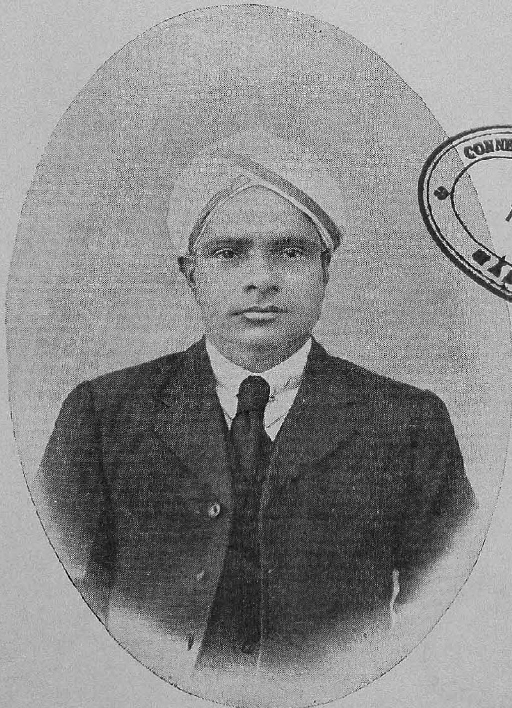
He was, as the whole world knows, a superb orator in English. Once a turbulent audience in the Kumbakonam Town Hall demanded that he should speak in Tamil hoping thereby to take the wind out of his sails; but Sastri bitterly disappointed them by a most magnificent speech in Tamil, superb in every way and marked by rich expression, powerful thought and colourful imagery in every part of it. Under provocation, he put forth his best effort. He was powerful in debate and a great adept in handling hostile audiences whether of erring juveniles or of malicious adults. All the same, he told me more than once when we happened to talk about it, that he felt very nervous before making every public speech; he was uneasy till he got through the first few minutes, and when he got into his stride he felt no difficulty and was perfect master of himself and the situation. He surprised me by confiding to me that his great speech in the Imperial Legislative Council on the Seditious Meetings Bill (a result of the Rowlatt Inquiry) was one of his extempore utterances, that speech I often described to him as the 'male tiger milk speech' from the simile which occurs in the peroration, and I had good reason to think he

was very glad he had taken that stand, though, of course, its practical effect was nil.

On several occasions I broached the subject of his writing a full-length biography of Gokhale whom he hailed as his master. On the first few occasions he was encouraging and I had hopes that he would take up the work; but later on he became more and more reluctant to think of it and said that he had come to feel that the task was beyond his ebbing strength, and that he was not meant to attain literary celebrity as the biographer of the most winsome publicist of the Indian Nationalist Movement. He turned instead to the congenial task of reading and expounding the *Ramayana* in a series of lectures delivered in the Madras Sanskrit College to large and appreciative audiences. Half way through these lectures, I fell ill and had to miss several of them. For the same reason, I lost touch with him in the last year of his life; I know little of his brief last illness and could just manage to go to Svagatam to pay my final respects to his remains when I heard that the end had come.

His was a high and noble life well and truly lived; he aimed high and went very far to attain his ideals. There was no truer patriot, no more dutiful son, or affectionate father, brother or friend. It is the rightful glory of the Kumbakonam College to count him among its great alumni.

K. A. Nilakanta Sastri



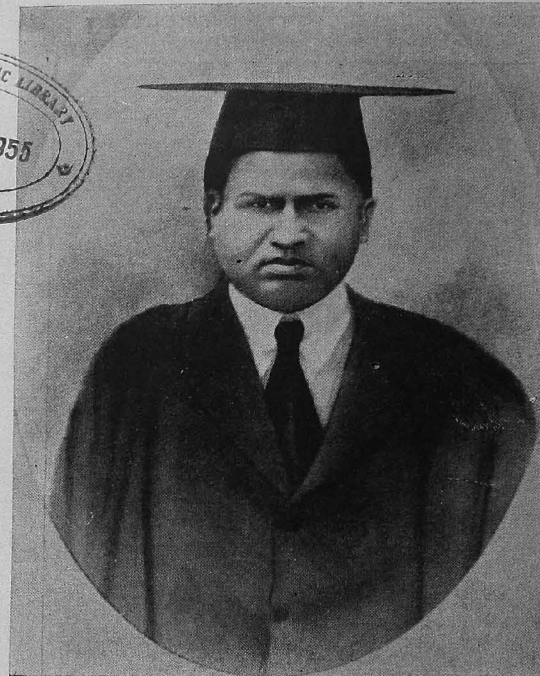
Raja Sabha Bhushana K. R. SRINIVASA IYENGAR
Retd. Member of Executive Council, Mysore.
President, College Day 1918.



Dewan Bahadur C. R. TIRUVENKATACHARIAR
President, College Day 1928.



V. P. MADHAVA RAO



Prof. S. RAMANUJAN, F. R. S.

Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao

Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao, an alumnus of the Kumbakonam College, had the unique distinction of being the Dewan of three Indian States, viz., Mysore, Travancore and Baroda. At the time of the celebration of the Centenary of the College, it would be useful to take note of the achievements of an alumnus of the College, not merely to indicate the great part played by the Institution in shaping the life and character of its alumni, but also as an example to the present and the future generations of the students of this College so as to influence their imagination and assure them that they could also achieve such distinction as the past students of this College have achieved.

Before dealing with the unique achievements of Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao in his official and non-official character, a brief mention will be made of his early life. Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao came from an ancient family of Mahratta Brahmins, long settled in Tanjore and supposed to have emigrated from the Satara District in the Bombay Presidency to South India in the wake of the Mahratta conquest of Tanjore. Born in 1850, he was educated in the Kumbakonam College under the distinguished educationist Mr. W. A. Porter (under whose fostering nurture many of his students achieved remarkable distinction); he took the B. A. Degree of the Madras University in 1869. Though he did not achieve high distinctions in his College career, he was thought of very highly by the Principal, on account of his independence of thought and personal character. It may be mentioned here that mere academic distinction does not usually enable a person to be successful in his later life. The influence brought to bear on a student by the teachers plays a very great part in shaping the personality and character of a student. The qualities of self-discipline, self-control, leadership, a high sense of duty, a broad outlook on life and a desire to render public service, all these go to make a student successful in later life. The success of Mr. Madhava Rao in his later life was due to these qualities imbibed by him during his career in this College.

In the year 1870, he entered the Mysore service as a clerk in the Office of the Guardian to His Highness the late Maharaja of Mysore and became the Head Master of the Royal School, where the prince was educated under the guardianship of Mr. C. B. Malleson, C. S. I. His ability and character soon attracted the attention of British officers serving under the British Commission who were then administering the Mysore State. He was appointed as Public Prosecutor. Several of the British officers under whom he served have recorded their very high opinion of the abilities and the character of Mr. Madhava Rao. At the 'Rendition' of Mysore State to His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, he was made a Subordinate Judge. The then Dewan Mr. Rangacharlu had picked the ablest of men for being appointed as officers under him and Mr. Madhava Rao was the youngest of them, another being the late Sir K. Seshadri Iyer who was a distinguished Dewan of Mysore after Mr. Rangacharlu. Mr. Madhava Rao acquired vast administrative experience in various capacities in the State service. After serving as a District Officer for about 7 years he was appointed Inspector-General of Police and had the distinction of being the first Indian to be appointed to that office. In the administration of the Police department, he showed rare ability and reorganized it in a way which brought him great credit. When plague broke out in Mysore State about the year 1897, he was appointed as Plague Commissioner and in that capacity he carried out many schemes which were of lasting benefit to the people of the State. One of the most noteworthy acts which he carried out as Plague Commissioner was the clearance of congestion in Bangalore city area which was then most insanitary and unhealthy. He opened out extensions in different directions of Bangalore city where people were allotted sites to build houses with sufficient open space all round so as to have clean surroundings and healthy atmosphere. His name is ever remembered by the citizens who are living in Basavangudi and Chamarajpet extensions. This scheme started by him has been developed later on and several extensions have since sprung up in various directions in Bangalore. As Revenue Commissioner he showed rare administrative capacity in carrying out several measures which brought in a large amount of revenue to the State treasury.

The remarkable career of Mr. Madhava Rao attracted the attention of the Maharaja of Travancore who invited him to take up the Dewanship of that State. The experience which Mr. Madhava Rao gained in Mysore, he made use of in organizing the various departments of that State, the settlement of land revenue, abolition of the system of levying heavy fines on service inam lands, the reorganization of the Accounts and Finance Departments of the State and the introduction of the British system of audit. The Excise department was newly organized. The Education department came under his purview and he introduced the system of free elementary education for all the backward classes. A most noteworthy measure introduced in Travancore was the establishment of the Representative Assembly of which he had experience in Mysore. This institution was the first of the kind in Indian States, under which the citizens of the State had the privilege of making direct representations to the high officers of the State.

In the year 1906, he was invited by the Maharaja of Mysore to succeed Sir P. N. Krishnamurthy as Dewan. During that period the Civil Service was reorganized, the Legislative Council for making laws and regulations was established, the executive was separated from the judicial work in some Districts and Revenue and Judicial probationers, Revenue Inspectors and Village Accountants were brought under special rules; Co-operative Societies on the British Indian system were established, and various other measures for the welfare of the people of the State were introduced. When he retired from the office of Dewan, people of the State expressed their gratitude for the good services rendered by him in the highest position he held in the Mysore State.

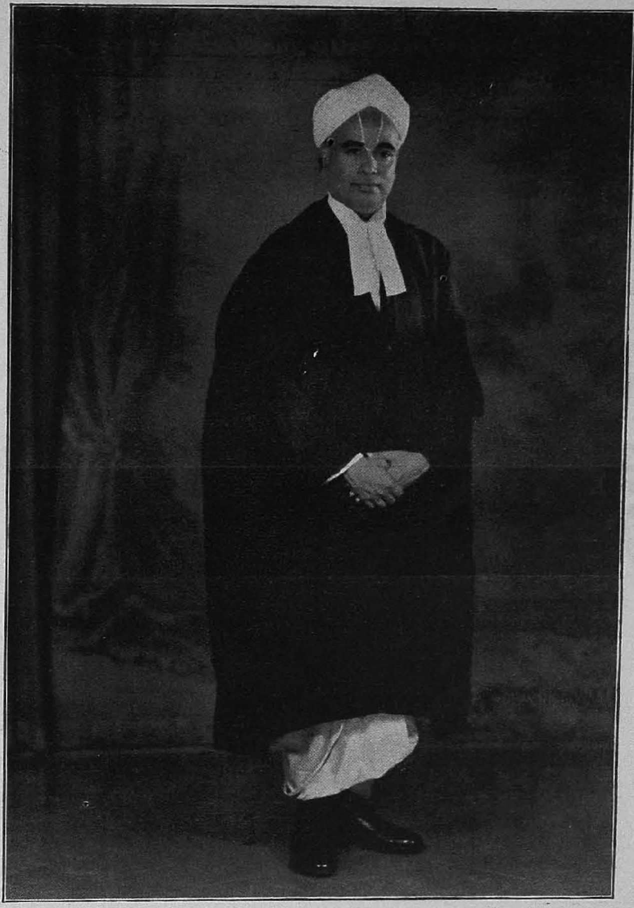
In the year 1914, His Highness the Maharaja of Baroda invited him to be the Dewan of that State. In that State, one could not achieve greatness who had not high character and great ability. Under its masterful Ruler who impressed his personality on every branch of the administration, mediocrities could not thrive. It was therefore of great credit to Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao that he was able by his administration to satisfy that astute Ruler, His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda, who ordered a statue of Mr. Madhava Rao to be located in the Palace Durbar Hall.

When he retired from the office of Dewan of Mysore the ready acknowledgment of his claims on the gratitude of the country and the unanimous recognition of his sterling worth by all parties, as well as the opinions expressed by the press at large, showed that Mr. Madhava Rao had discharged with credit to himself and satisfaction to the public the duties of the highest position in one of the most advanced States of the Empire.

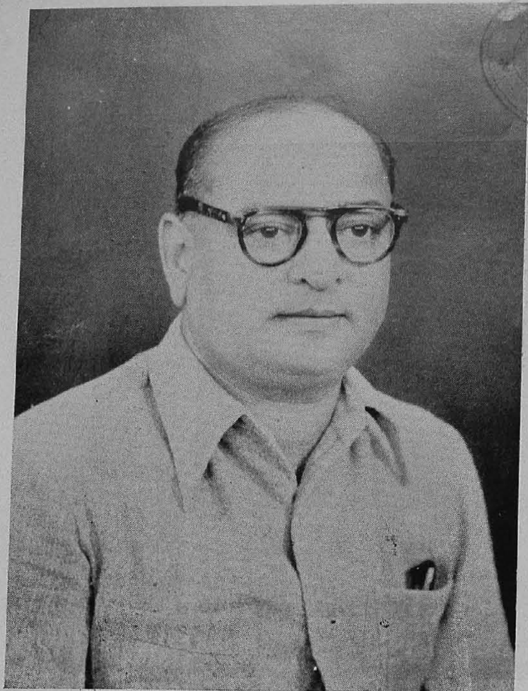
After retirement he travelled widely in India and studied the conditions obtaining in different parts of the Empire. He helped His Holiness the late Jagadguru of Sringeri in founding the Sanskrit Institute in Bangalore. A movement was set on foot to make it the centre for combining in the study of Sanskrit the Pandit method with the critical method of the Western nations. He presided over the Tanjore District Conference held at Shiyali in 1913. His address, which contained a vigorous attack on the Land Policy of the British Government in ryotwari tracts, created some sensation. He was strongly of opinion that instruction in non-language subjects should be imparted through the medium of the regional languages and, to facilitate this, he advocated the re-distribution of the various provinces on a linguistic basis.

Mr. Madhava Rao was a man of wide culture, progressive in his ways, but averse to all violent departure from the ancient religious and social system of India which was, in his opinion, unrivalled as a scheme for securing the happiness of man here below and in his future existence.

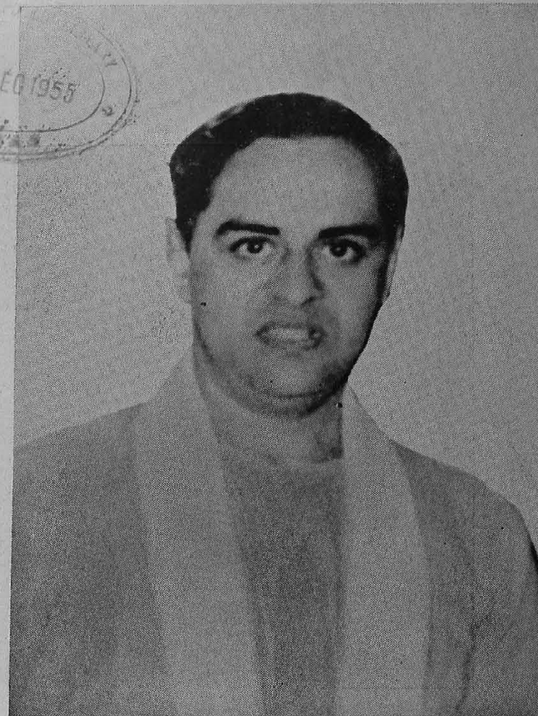
From this short sketch of the life of Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao, one could see that even within the limited scope he had while serving the Indian States under the control of the British, he was able to render public service to the lasting benefit of the people, that he had a broad outlook on life and served the poor with rare sympathy against all narrow prejudices, and that he had a regard for the high cultural attainments of Hinduism which, he thought, should be revived. He had all the qualities required of a statesman in modern India—not merely an ideologist but one who would carry out his schemes into fruitful results.



SRI K. S. KRISHNASWAMI AYYANGAR B.A., B.L.,
Retd. Judge, High Court & Advocate, Supreme Court,
President, Centenary Celebrations Committee.



C. L. ARAVAMUDHA IYENGAR,
Secretary, K. C. O. B. Association, &
Centenary Celebrations Committee.



T. SAMPATH IYENGAR,
Secretary, Centenary Celebrations Committee.

The present and future students of the Kumbakonam College may justly take pride in that their Alma Mater has equipped men like Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao to play an important part in the cause of our Motherland and they may hold him as a model in their imaginative visions of their own future.

May the Kumbakonam College continue to produ cesu ch men when our Motherland needs their services in these days.

Rajadharmaprasakta
T. Singaravelu Mudaliar, B. A., B. L.,
Judge, High Court of Mysore (Retd.) &
Vice-Chancellor, University of Mysore (Retd.)

T. R. Venkatarama Sastri

Sri T. R. Venkatarama Sastri, popularly known as T. R. V. Sastri, was a student of the Kumbakonam Government College from 1890 to 1894. Tall and stately, without and within alike, he was not merely a great lawyer but also an erudite scholar and a public man of high integrity who took a lively interest in all public affairs. The College can rightly be proud of him as one of its alumni.

He was born on the 6th of February 1874. His father Sri Raju Sastrigal was a great scholar in Sanskrit. Sri T. R. V. Sastri learned Sanskrit from his father. He also underwent *Adhyayana* in the Vedas and the Upanishads in the orthodox mode until the age of ten. This early training made a deep impress on him and he never lost his interest in Sanskrit and the study of the Upanishads and the Dharma Sastras to the end of his days.

Sri Raju Sastrigal decided that his son should have the benefit of English education, much against the wishes of his elder brother. He settled down at Mayavaram as a Pundit vakil and admitted young Venkataraman in the Municipal High School, Mayavaram. It was in this school that the Rt. Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastri and Sri T. R. V. Sastri met as teacher and pupil, which later became one of fast friendship and mutual esteem. After finishing his school education he joined the Kumbakonam College wherefrom he graduated in 1894 and obtained the Rama Rao Gold Medal for proficiency in English.

Thereafter, he studied Law and took his degree in 1898. He served his apprenticeship under Sir P. S. Sivaswami Iyer and was enrolled as a High Court Vakil in 1899. His transparent sincerity, his honesty, his love of work, his readiness to put forth adequate industry, his sound and accurate scholarship in law—all these made him a valuable assistant and Sri T. R. V. Sastri continued, even after his apprenticeship, to work with Sir P. S. Sivaswami Iyer in his chambers for some years. To Sir P. S. S., Sri T. R. V. Sastri had always the respect and reverence of the *sishya* to his guru. On his side, Sir P. S. S. began with esteem for

Sastriar's erudition and character and soon developed a great affection for him.

Sri T. R. V. Sastri made steady progress in his profession by reason of his ability, industry and character. His practice was not limited to the British Indian Courts. Litigants from the Courts of Mysore, Hyderabad, Travancore and Pudukkottah also sought his services. Wherever he went, he earned the esteem of both the Bench and the Bar by his fair advocacy, his clear and accurate presentation of his case in faultless English and his high character.

He was appointed Advocate-General in 1924 and he held that post till 1928. As Advocate-General he sustained the prestige of the bar and strove to maintain its high standards.

He was appointed Law Member of the Government of Madras in 1928, but he resigned it within forty-eight hours of his acceptance of the office on a difference between him and the then Governor on the distribution of portfolios. He felt that he could not submit to the changes proposed without loss of self-respect. There was divided opinion on the wisdom of the step he had taken but he rose in the estimation of people all over India as a man who would not hesitate to sacrifice personal advantages for the sake of principle.

He then reverted to his practice at the bar and continued till a few years before his death in July 1953 to be one of the accredited and active leaders of the Madras Bar. He was also a Member of the Bar Council for a number of years and for some time its Vice President.

In politics, he was a Liberal like his two masters, the Rt. Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastri and Sir P. S. Sivaswami Iyer. He believed in gradual evolution, respect for Law and the importance of the rights and liberties of the individual. While he belonged to the moderate school of politics he did not hesitate to co-operate with or help the Congress when his and their principles did not conflict. He felt that the Liberals and Congressmen were colleagues and brethren in service working, may be by different paths, towards the same goal of the freedom of the country. He was twice chosen to

preside over the Liberal Federation, first in 1935 at Nagpur and later in 1944 at Lahore.

He took great interest in the field of education. He was a member of the Syndicate of the Madras University for a number of years. He was also a member of the Syndicate of the Annamalai University for several years and acted for a brief period as its Vice-Chancellor. He was connected with many of the educational institutions of Madras. He was on the Board of Management of the P. S. High School, the Tirukkattupalli High School, the Lady Sivaswami Iyer Girls' High School, Hindu High School, Vivekananda College, Institute of Technology, Sarada Vidyalaya and the Madras Seva Sadan. He took great interest in Sanskrit and he was the President of the Kuppuswami Sastri Research Institute from 1946.

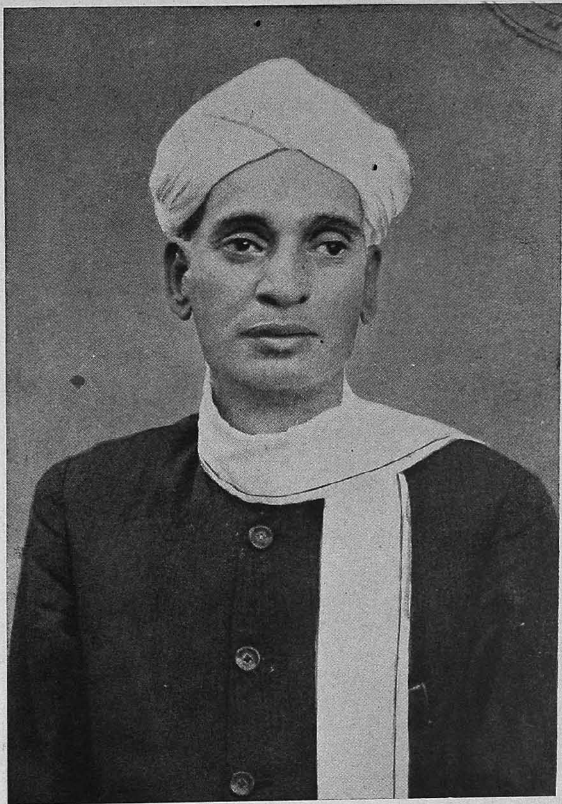
He served the cause of co-operation and the co-operative movement as President of the Triplicane Urban Co-operative Society from 1917 to 1924. He was also for some years a Director of the Madras Provincial Co-operative Bank.

The Government of Madras utilized his services by appointing him a Member of the Railway Enquiry Committee, the Delegation to Ceylon under Sri G. S. Bajpai, and the Hindu Law Committee under Sri B. N. Rao's Chairmanship. Though rooted in the ancient principles of the Hindu Sastras, he was a progressive who could advocate reforms needed by change of times. As such his contribution to the draft of the Hindu Code was invaluable.

He was courageous and unflinching in the statement of his opinions. He condemned the lathi charges on Congressmen by the Government of the day. He fought for the rights of Inamdars against odds. He took up the cause of the R. S. S. and gained for them the removal of the restrictions imposed on them by Government.

When he died on 2 July 1953, we lost one tall in stature in every sense of the term, a great lawyer, a wise counsellor and a public man of integrity.

K. V. Krishnaswami Ayyar,
Advocate, Madras.



DR. A. SANKARAN, M. A., PH. D.
Principal



K. S. Patrachariar,
President, K. C. O. B. Association.

V. Krishnaswami Iyer

It was my privilege to have known the late Mr. V. Krishnaswami Iyer intimately and to have had the priceless boon of his good will and affection. My regard for him grew with the years and has been a potent force in my life as it has been in the case of many young men of my generation.

Mr. V. Krishnaswami Iyer was born in June 1863 at Tiruvadamarudur in Tanjore District. He studied in the Matriculation class and the Junior Intermediate class of the Kumbakonam College and came under the influence of the great scholars and veteran educationalists, Mr. Porter and Mr. T. Gopala Rao. Under their guidance he acquired that taste for English Literature and the mastery of forcible and idiomatic English which distinguished him throughout his life. Later on he studied in the Senior Intermediate class and the B. A. classes at Presidency College, Madras, and displayed great promise and exceptional brilliance. He then studied in the Law College and while doing so studied Physics and Chemistry under Dr. Wilson of the Presidency College, a course of action indicative of his keen love of knowledge in general and of scientific knowledge in particular. He passed his B. L. Degree Examination in January 1884 and was enrolled as an advocate in 1885. Sir P. S. Sivaswami Iyer and the late Mr. Justice T. V. Seshagiri Iyer were his contemporaries.

Though he had to wait for nearly ten years to reach the top ranks of the legal profession, he was an advocate of very high and universally acknowledged eminence. When I joined the Law College in January 1897 he and the late Mr. Justice P. R. Sundara Iyer who was his life-long and inseparable friend and companion worked in the chambers of Sir S. Subramania Iyer who later on became one of the ornaments of the Madras High Court. He was, along with Mr. Sundara Iyer and Sir P. S. Sivaswami Iyer one of the founders of the Madras Law Journal. He was for many years

the Secretary of the Madras Advocates' Association and also a Lecturer in the Madras Law College.

Mr. V. Krishnaswami Iyer had natural abilities of the highest order and a vibrant and dominant personality and was destined for leadership. He had also considerable assiduity and application. He mastered legal principles by studying legal classics and by working with Sir S. Subramania Iyer. His profound knowledge of Sanskrit enabled him to study and master the Hindu Law texts and become an unchallenged authority on Hindu Law. It enabled him later on to study Vedanta and master its intricacies as well.

Mr. V. Krishnaswami Iyer was a top-ranking advocate and then became a Judge of the Madras High Court. As an advocate what struck every one was the thoroughness of his preparation of cases and the force and rapidity of his arguments and his ready-witted resourcefulness. He was very kind and generous to the junior advocates even though he was impatient when he found any one slow or ill-prepared. As a Judge he displayed a full grasp of the facts of the case and the principles of law applicable to them and his judgments were models of clarity and thoroughness and forcefulness.

He was also an active politician and backed the school of moderates as against the school of extremists in Congress. He was a great admirer of the selfless patriotism of both Mr. G. K. Gokhale and Mahatma Gandhi who in their turn had a great admiration for Mr. V. Krishnaswami Iyer. He was responsible for the entry into politics of the late Rt. Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastriar. He was for some time a member of the Madras University Senate and established a scheme of Oriental Degrees and was also a representative of the Madras University in the Madras Legislative Council. He successfully conducted the prosecution against Sir George Arbuthnot and helped to found the Indian Bank. He founded the Indian Industrial Association, the Dharma Rakshana Sabha, the South Indian Association and Ranade Library and the Sanskrit College and the Venkataramana Dispensary at Mylapore and gave large sums of money for their upkeep and progress. He was also profoundly interested in the fine arts and was a President of the Suguna Vilasa Sabha. It was

he who discovered the genius of Subrahmania Bharati and enabled this star to shine brightly in the Tamil literary firmament. He was a man of tireless energy and touched modern Indian life at many points and adorned whatever he touched.

The whole country rejoiced when he was elevated to a High Court Judgeship at Madras in 1910 and to an Executive Councillorship at Madras in 1911. It was a great misfortune for India that he was taken ill at the Coronation Durbar in December and died on 28th December 1911.

He was thus a great advocate and Judge, a great patriot, a great politician and administrator and statesman, and a great scholar and savant. He was also a profound student of Hindu Religion and Dharma and admired and publicized such stalwarts as Swami Vivekananda and Premananda Bharati. His was a many-featured genius and he was also a universally beloved and lovable man. The Kumbakonam College has every reason to be proud of him just as he was proud of it. India will always remember him and his marvellous talents and his unique services to the nation. His great Madras University Convocation speech on 23rd November 1911 will be always treasured by the Indian people. Let us ever remember two of his previous utterances:

"The mighty stream of master-minds which filled the land with plenty may in a season of drought have thinned to a tiny channel, but signs are not wanting that it may swell again to a flood".

"Live on the past in the present for the future."

K. S. Ramaswami Sastri

"Mr. Krishnaswami Iyer was a man of 'lightning decisions', he formed his impressions of a man at first sight; to young men he was generous to a fault, his character was of exceeding strength, and his affections and hatreds were enduring".

T. Vijayaraghavacharya.

S. Kasturi Ranga Iyengar

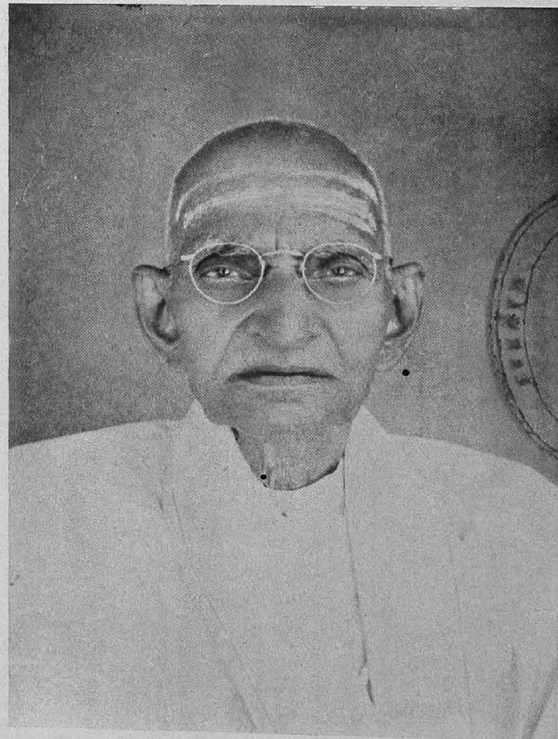
Mr. S. Kasturi Ranga Iyengar was born in 1859 at the small village of Innambur on the banks of the Cauvery in Tanjore District. He was the third son of Mr. Sesha Iyengar, who was himself a scion of a respectable family in the district. Mr. Sesha Iyengar was for some time employed in the Tanjore Collectorate and later was the manager of the wealthy estates of Kapisthalam and Shiyali. From his scanty resources he gave his three sons a high education. The eldest brother of Mr. Kasturi Ranga Iyengar was the late Dewan Bahadur S. Srinivasa Raghava Iyengar, Dewan of Baroda. The next brother, the late Mr. S. Soundararaja Iyengar, rose to be a Deputy Collector.

The last of the brothers, Mr. S. Kasturi Ranga Iyengar, had his early education in Kumbakonam. Later he joined Presidency College, Madras, from where he graduated in 1879. The lure of Government Service for the moment had its effect on him also and he accepted the post of a Sub-Registrar. It was not long before the urge to devote himself to the service of the nation impelled him to give up his official service. So in 1884 we find him, having left his Sub-Registrarship, a graduate in law and an apprentice under the late Sir V. Bashyam Iyengar. Setting up practice at Coimbatore, Mr. Kasturi Ranga Iyengar easily came to the front at the bar there. Even at Coimbatore he devoted a large part of his time to public affairs and contributed pretty largely to the columns of THE HINDU. He was a member of the local board and the municipality, thus rendering such service to his fellow citizens as fell within his scope as a member of those bodies. Later he turned to Madras in search of a wider field of national usefulness. At that time THE HINDU, sorely buffeted by adverse financial factors, was in need of a courageous man at the helm. Mr. Iyengar bought THE HINDU in 1905 and thus began the fulfilment of his long-cherished ambition to serve his country.

Mr. Kasturi Iyengar formally took charge of THE HINDU on 1st April 1905, retaining the services of the late proprietor



Kasturi Ranga Aiyangar



A. Subramania Iyer



DR. S. RANGACHARI



V. KRISHNASWAMI IYER C. I. E.

Mr. Veeraraghavachariar as Manager and Mr. Karunakara Menon as Joint Editor. Within a month of taking charge, Mr. Karunakara Menon resigned the joint editorship of the paper and went about seeking support of friends for starting a daily paper on his own account. Within three months thereafter Mr. Veeraraghavachariar fell ill and later he severed his connection with THE HINDU. In the difficulties and complications that arose on all sides, Mr. Kasturi Ranga Iyengar decided to accept Sir (then Mr.) C. Sankaran Nair's advice that it was best to keep the paper and the concern in the hands of one man like himself and he worked with all the vigour and devotion he could bring to bear upon his task. Though the first year of business yielded him only a gross profit of Rs. 150, Mr. Kasturi Ranga Iyengar had the satisfaction of viewing the future with confidence as the paper, notwithstanding the starting of the "Indian Patriot" by Mr. Karunakara Menon, was steadily growing in its influence with the public.

Mr. Iyengar was from the first a Congressman, and during the 1907—08 troubles in Congress he opposed the watering down of Congress ideals. During the days when communications were imperfectly developed in the country and when to reach Calcutta from Madras one had to go by sea, Mr. Iyengar was among those who attended the Congress sittings there. From 1908, till the Lucknow Congress of 1914 brought the Tilakite wing into Congress, Mr. Iyengar used his newspaper effectively to prevent the toning down of Congress policy. It was about this time that in the Presidency of Madras, the administration of Lord Ampthill, to the merits of which THE HINDU drew attention in an excellent summary, was replaced by that of Sir Arthur Lawley. This was an era of triumphant reaction. Mr. Iyengar would have no truckling with sham and deceit. The Minto-Morley reforms never had a more dangerous—because well informed—opponent than THE HINDU. Sir Arthur Lawley's regime with its crop of arrests and thundering sentences for sedition found Mr. Iyengar ready and he gave no quarter. It was in the midst of these political and administrative troubles that Madras had to go through an acute economic crisis because of what was known as the Arbuthnot failure. The work of THE HINDU under the editor's able lead in publicizng the facts in connection with the insolvency operations brought public approbation. The legal proceedings

culminated in the prosecution and conviction of Sir George Arbuthnot, the senior partner of the firm. The ideas that had already been entertained for the establishment and development of Indian banking enterprise in Madras resulted in the establishment of the Indian Bank.

It was about this time that the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company was formed which for a time competed successfully with powerful British commercial and economic interests. The support given by the authorities to foreign commercial interests practically developed a political crisis in Tuticorin. Riots followed and Government officers resorted to shooting and other acts of repression. This struck terror into the minds of the people. THE HINDU condemned the action of the authorities in Tuticorin and Tirunelveli and courageously called them to account for the shooting resorted to. This made a profound impression on the public mind. The Government had actually sanctioned the prosecution of THE HINDU in connection with what it wrote on that occasion but for some reason the prosecution did not eventually come off.

A series of prosecutions for sedition were started against Swadeshi propagandists and the leaders of the popular movement. Prosecution of editors of newspapers followed. The editor of "India", a popular Tamil weekly of the time, Mr. Ch. Hari Sarvothama Rao and Mr. Narayana Rao, editors of popular Andhra weeklies of the time, were successfully prosecuted and imprisoned for long terms. During all these times THE HINDU under Mr. Kasturi Ranga Iyengar did its duty to the country and the people without fear or favour and without flinching from consequences. When the Government took the grave decision to prosecute Mr. G. Subramania Iyer, the editor of the SWADESAMITRAN and one of the founders of THE HINDU, a great publicist and popular leader, THE HINDU by a timely warning succeeded in making the authorities re-consider their policy and drop the prosecution.

THE HINDU under Mr. Iyengar had to fight at every turn successive proposals and policies of the Madras Government intended to whittle down or wholly defeat the policy and aims of the Minto-Morley scheme. At the same time it had to combat

on behalf of the people many other reactionary steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government of the day in respect of economic and administrative matters such as the unduly heavy land revenue enhancements in several districts, repression of students through educational circulars and general punitive orders, quartering of punitive police and similar panicky action taken in other ways.

Meanwhile in Madras popular activities were directed to other matters of public concern and at the instance of the late Dr. Nair and Nanjunda Rao, THE HINDU took up the case of a large body of Theosophists as well as the public who were aggrieved by certain developments in theosophic beliefs. THE HINDU had to face two criminal prosecutions for defamation and two civil suits for libel at the hands of the Theosophical Society and its leading votaries. Suffice to say that THE HINDU, Dr. Nair and Dr. Nanjunda Rao successfully fought for their cause and for the rights of free criticism, and bona fide public agitation in respect of social as much as political issues in this country. The acquittal of THE HINDU in the criminal cases eventually led to a settlement in which Mrs. Besant and the Theosophical Society dropped all their civil suits. The event is important in another sense in that it was the beginning of a move on Mrs. Besant's part to direct her great activities, on behalf of India, to the field of Indian politics—a move which finally led to the Home Rule movement.

The same fearlessness and insight into the country's needs were exhibited in Mr. Iyengar's evidence before the Public Service Commission in the year 1912. His written memorandum to the Commission was thorough-going and clear in its condemnation of the vigorous non-Indian bureaucracy, and in its treatment of the relative claims of European and Indian officials in India.

When the great war broke out in 1914, THE HINDU in common with the Indian press as a whole had a most difficult and trying time. But the manner in which this was discharged was endorsed and appreciated by the people and the Government alike. The brilliance with which the war campaigns were, from time to time, reviewed and commented upon owed not a little to the late Mr. S. Rangaswami, who was then the assistant editor

under Mr. Iyengar. The paper under Mr. Iyengar's lead repeatedly and effectively defeated the attempts in the local Anglo-Indian press to oppose and choke nationalist activities in India (such as Home Rule) on the plea of war emergency and on the bogey of sedition and disaffection in the land. By the middle of 1917 the Government had brought about a tense situation in Madras by taking rapid action under the Press Act against 'New India' demanding securities of Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 10,000 and by following it up with orders for the externment of Mrs. Besant and her two lieutenants. THE HINDU at that time had to fight the battle against great odds and did so manfully. Mr. Kasturi Ranga Iyengar who, by nature and conviction, was averse to taking any active or leading part in the conduct of political agitation and propaganda, found it necessary and deemed it his duty at this juncture to come forward and take the lead in carrying on agitation on the platform and in the press when the Government chose to put Mrs. Besant under repressive restraint. We need not go into the subsequent history which is well-known ending in the August announcement of 1917, the policy of which was accepted by the Calcutta Congress. In the preparation and presentation of material to the Montford Committee THE HINDU did strenuous work in its columns, editorially and through contributions. Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar, then editor of SWADESAMITRAN and Mr. Kasthuri Ranga Iyengar were invited to place their views before the Secretary of State and the Viceroy during their Madras visit.

In the subsequent year 1918, a critical period in the fortunes of the World War, Government invited a deputation of the press in India to visit England and the theatres of war. The editor of THE HINDU was by tacit consent the leader of the Indian delegation. In accepting the invitation in his state of health then Mr. Kasturi Ranga Iyengar undertook a duty which was by no means far from anxiety for his family and friends. In reply to a public address presented to him on the occasion, Mr. Iyengar undertook to impress upon His Majesty's Government that India's help in the war would have been much greater if her industrial and military potentialities had been properly developed. He promised also to take every opportunity to press upon the attention of the people of England India's right to self-determination and self - Government.



W. A. Porter



T. Gopala Rao



G. H. Stuart



J. B. Bilderbeck



J. H. Stone



E.W. Middlemast



S. Seshayyah



C. Nagoji Rao



J. M. Hensman



H. S. Duncan



T. O. Hodges



J. A. Yates



P. V. Seshu Iyer



R. M. Statham



P. Rajagopala Iyer



M. C. S. Anantha-
padmanabha Rao



S. E.
Ranganathan



Dr. S. R. U.
Savoor



R. M. STATHAM, M. A.,
Principal, 1914-19 & 1932.



Dr. S. R. U. Savoor.
Principal, 1929 - 31.

However when he returned from England in January 1919, Mr. Iyengar found that the Indian Government were far from dealing with India's claims and demands in the spirit in which the declaration of His Majesty's Government professed to treat them. The Rowlatt Bill, the Satyagraha movement the Jallianwallabagh are products of this period. THE HINDU had to put up a great fight as in 1907 and 1908. It incurred the wrath of the bureaucracy. So it came about that Lord Willingdon's Government, after attempts at dictation and warning at private conferences, decided under instructions from the Governmemt of India to call upon THE HINDU to furnish security under the Press Act, a step which was deeply and universally resented in the country. The Government's action, however, left THE HINDU and Mr. Iyengar's declared policy wholly unaffected.

To Mr. Kasturi Ranga Iyengar's labours as a member of the Civil Disobedience Committee, in spite of weak health due to a serious operation, the report to which he was a signatory is the most outstanding tribute. It was in fact his tour in connection with that work that rendered him an invalid for some time when Providence released him on December 12, 1923. Tributes flowed from all parts of the globe.

Mr. Kasturi Ranga Iyengar was a great organizer. He wished the nation to be organized economically as well as politically on sound lines. He was for ever for raising the dignity and self-respect of honest labour. He was an office-bearer connected with trade unions in the city and of the S. I. Ry. Union. He was against Indian emigration and often urged that India was vast enough to clothe and feed her children, and sending our countrymen abroad as slaves was a disgrace to us. He never allowed himself or any Indian to be treated as inferior to Europeans. He accepted a Government invitation for the Delhi Durbar and was about to start when he heard that in a minor point the European journalists were to be treated as superior to Indians. He at once wired to Lord Carmichael cancelling his acceptance of the invitation and did not go till he was finally told in writing that the distinction was abandoned. There were similar other instances.

Although Mr. Karturi Ranga Iyengar began his career as a professional journalist rather late in life, he soon proved himself to be almost peerless in the ranks of Indian journalism. The standing and stability of THE HINDU to-day are a monument to his business acumen.

He was a great student of political science. Burke, Bright, Mill, Macaulay, Morley—these were his favourite political philosophers and from their writings he would quote to the point and often. In constitutional theory and law, he was at home with Dicey, Anson, Bryce, Lowell and Sidgwick. His interests were as wide as his taste was catholic. To the educative side of journalism he attached the greatest importance.

As to his methods and policies, he delighted in letting facts state their own case. Of his unflinching independence as Editor, there is no better instance than the well-known Gillman incident when he refused to be bamboozled by authority. It arose out of an article in THE HINDU criticizing Lord Pentland's speech delivered in the Ootacamund Council meeting. Mr. Gillman, member of the Executive Council in charge of the Press portfolio, took objection to some expressions and made other allegations against THE HINDU which Mr. Kasturi Ranga Iyengar said should either be proved or withdrawn. Mr. Gillman said he would withdraw his statement. Mr. Kasturi Ranga Iyengar's addresses as Chairman of the Reception Committee of the Provincial Conference in 1917, as President of the Nationalists Conference in 1919 and of the Manjeri Conference in 1920, bear eloquent testimony to the heroic spirit of nationalism that permeated his entire outlook.

(Contributed)

S. Muthiah Mudaliar

"Some are born great, some achieve greatness, some have greatness thrust upon them" is the old saying. Mr. Muthiah Mudaliar who *achieved* greatness, was born in 1880 in the hamlet of Tirukalacheri near Tranquebar, in the district of Tanjore. His father Swami Mudaliar, was a keen agriculturist who took pride in turning one grain to produce hundreds by applying his physical and mental energies in the development of the soil and its produce. However his ambition was to see that his son Muthiah took a University degree and became a bachelor of laws. God helped him and the father generously spent money for his education. He matriculated from the Town High School, Kumbakonam, and crossed the Cauveri for his F. A. and B. A. at the Kumbakonam College. For his law course he shifted to Madras where, after taking his B. L. Degree, he became an apprentice under Mr. V. Krishnaswami Iyer whose training and guidance gave Mr. Muthiah Mudaliar the equipment necessary to handle cases in the appellate side as brilliantly as his worthy senior. His work increased from the start; several people from the mofussil rushed to him for advice and assistance. The Mutts of Tanjore District always sought his advice in all legal matters. He became a popular figure both in Madras and the mofussil and his election to the Senate in 1923 by registered graduates was a matter of course. This was almost his first entry in public life. He was one of the strong supporters of the Justice Party organized by Sri P. Thiagaraja Chettiar and Dr. T. M. Nair. His name became associated with all public institutions and organizations.

In 1926 Mr. Mudaliar was appointed as the Chairman of the Board of Examiners in Law in the University of Madras. The year 1923 marks an epoch in the political history of Mr. Muthiah Mudaliar when he was elected to the Madras Legislative Council for one of the three seats of the Tanjore District. He made a special study of the land problems, particularly those relating to his own native District. He toured throughout the District and studied the problems at first hand. His contribution to the deliberations of the legislative council was vast and valuable. In the passage of the Hindu Religious Endowments Bill, he put

up a strenuous fight for the preservation and proper regulation of the ancient institutions like the Mutts. When the question of the settlement of rights over the distribution of the water of the Cauveri between the Governments of Madras and Mysore came up for decision he took a leading part for the recognition of the rights of the Madras State and of the Delta Mirasdars.

He was for a second time elected to the Madras Legislative Council with a thumping majority and he was appointed in 1928 as Minister for Public Health, Registration and Excise. He made radical changes and appreciable improvements in several of the departments under his control. He improved the status of the School of Indian Medicine in Madras and increased the number of beds in the hospital attached to it. The Homoeopathic system of medicine received importance during his regime. Restriction of drink and reduction of alcoholic shops, received prominence in the scheme which he promulgated as a prelude to complete prohibition.

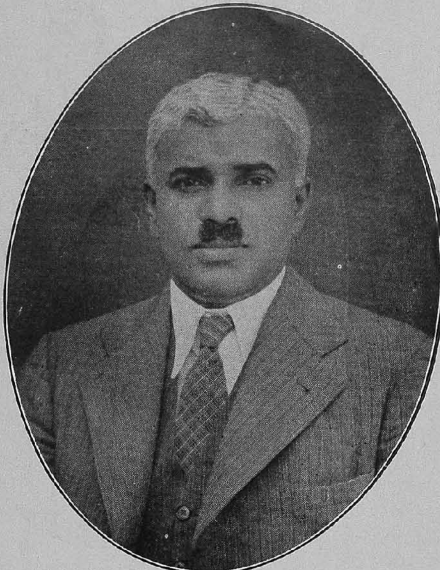
The main plank of the Justice Party was "equal opportunity to all persons and communities and distribution of offices on communal basis." The Raja of Panagal who was almost the principal champion of the above programme, did not venture so far as to issue a Government order in that respect, but it was left to Mr. Muthiah Mudaliar, to sign the Communal G. O. which gives representation in all offices to all communities on a communal basis in a certain ratio. At the succeeding general election to the Legislative Council he was confronted with enormous difficulties and eventually he had to lose his seat. This defeat did not depress him but goaded him on to work more vigorously for the cause which he espoused, and side by side with this activity he resumed his practice at the Bar. Many old clients and fresh sets of persons rushed to the Ex-Minister with briefs. His experience and influence were great factors to reckon with and people did not fail to take advantage of them. But he did not succeed in amassing a large fortune as many persons could have expected. Some claimed kindred with him on political grounds, some others felt diffident to approach him on easy terms because of his position as an Ex-Minister. It is an irony of fate with many lawyers who take to politics that they cannot stipulate strictly for fees



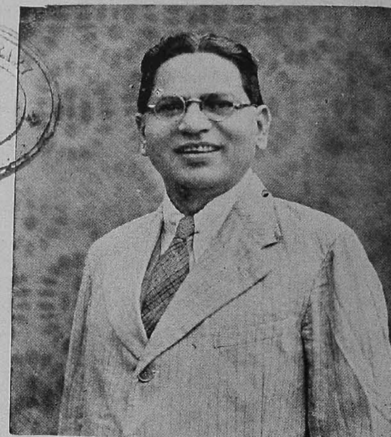
C. N. GANAPATHI IYER



Rao Bahadur A. CHAKRAVARTHY, I. E. S.,
Principal, 1932–38.



Dr. K. C. CHAKKO, D. SC.,
Principal, 1942 - 45.



Dr. M. KARAMCHAND WADE, M. A. Ph. D.
Principal, 1946 - 48.

or terms and Mr. Muthiah's political activities had their own adverse effect. But he continued to be more and more active in politics. He had his reward. He was appointed as Chairman of the Madras Franchise Committee in 1932 and the Madras Delimitation Committee in 1936 in connection with the reforms introduced by the Government of India Act, 1935. He was awarded the title of C. I. E., for his meritorious services. When the second global war broke out, he was taken as a member of the Recruitment and Propaganda Sub-committee.

The Co-operative movement had an attraction for him and he took an active part in it by serving as President of the Chingleput District Co-operative Central Bank, Director of the Triplicane Urban Co-operative Society, the Madras City Co-operative Bank and the Madras Central Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank. He was also connected with several educational institutions and social clubs such as the T. T. V. High School, Madras, and the Cosmopolitan Club, Madras. He was a Freemason. Belonging as he was to the Thondaimandala Vellala community, he took an active interest in advancing the cause of the community and lifting it up to the forefront by himself working as a Secretary.

Though he occupied very high position in several walks of life yet he remained always a simple, pious and kind-hearted gentleman, with definitely advanced views on religious matters without seriously infringing the tenets held holy by the orthodox. Till his death on 30th June 1953 he was active, attending to his duties both public and personal. God had endowed him with talents which he developed to such great heights as to befit him for service to society as a brilliant lawyer, an able statesman and a selfless social reformer. The Communal G. O. and the Temperance Scheme stand out as two important landmarks in the life of Mr. Muthiah Mudaliar. In his death the State sustained an irreparable loss. The name of such a distinguished alumnus of our College will always be remembered by the Old Boys and the present and future generations with great respect and admiration. May his example be an inspiration to the younger generation.

R. Kandasamy Moopanar, B. A., B. L.

Srinivasa Ramanujan

Ramanujan was born in 1887 in Erode, the native place of his mother, but his family lived at Sri Sarangapani Swami East Sannidhi Street in the town of Kumbakonam, which was the scene of his early life and career. He belonged to a poor Sri Vaishnava Brahmin family. His father was an accountant in a cloth shop and his mother the daughter of a court bailiff. There is nothing extraordinary about his parents or his ancestors, which could be said to have been inherited by him to account for the greatness that awaited him later in life.

He was put in a pial school till his seventh year and from there he was sent to the Town High School where he studied from 1894 to 1903. Even during this period, indications of his remakable powers were not wanting. He stood first in the whole of the Tanjore District in the Primary Examination. While in the III Form he questioned the teacher whether the quotient could be unity in the case of zero by zero as in the case of other numbers divided by themselves—a problem which will be nowadays introduced only in the collegiate course. He had studied not only the entire High School mathematics but mastered the College text books as well. At twelve he could solve unaided every problem in Loney's Trigonometry, Part II. He borrowed, through a friend from this College, Carr's Synopsis of Pure Mathematics, containing 6165 formulae without proofs in Algebra, Trigonometry, Geometry and Calculus and worked out all of them, each being a piece of research by itself. This opened up in him a vista to all the higher branches of Mathematics. In this period his teachers and classmates were struck by his amazing powers and he readily helped one and all including even undergraduates who came to him for getting difficult problems solved.

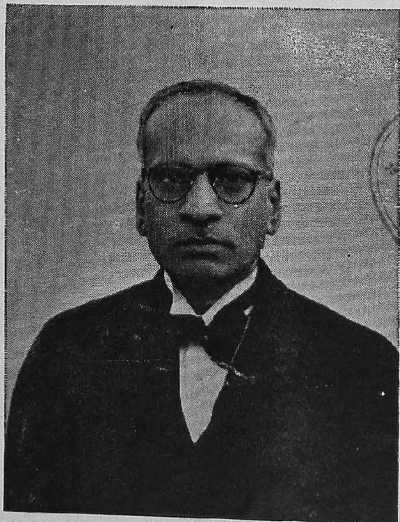
The first public recognition of his extraordinary powers was on the occasion of the Annual Prize distribution in 1904. He was the recipient of Sri K. Ranganatha Rao's prize for Mathematics, when Sri Krishna Iyer, the reputed Headmaster of the Town High School introduced him to Sri V. Krishnaswamy

Iyer, the President of the function, and to the distinguished audience in such terms as these—"Here is a student who, my mathematics assistant says, has displayed in his answer papers a remarkable ability and deserved many more marks than even the maximum itself." He passed the Matriculation examination in 1903 and joined the Junior F. A. class of the College in 1904. Unfortunately he was detained on the score that he obtained only three marks out of hundred in English, with the result that he lost the scholarship he had earned.

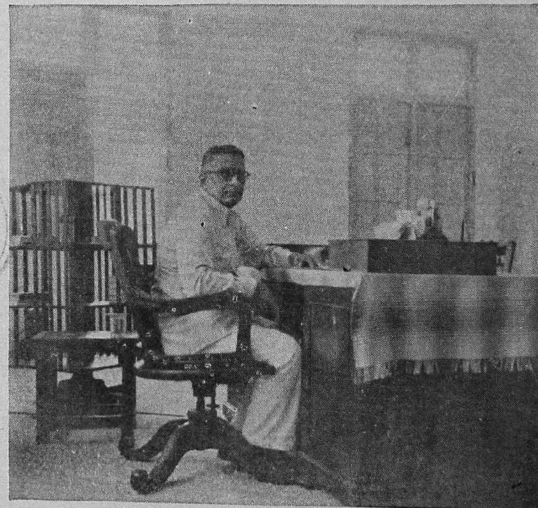
I matriculated in 1904 and was his classmate at college for two years. We used to sit together in the class and I developed a friendship with him which continued till his death. I had thus an opportunity of observing his powers somewhat at close quarters. The Goddess of number seemed to dance before him and unravel to him her mysteries without reserve. He could repeat prime numbers up to a crore. He taught me the method of constructing magic squares. He was at that time going through a book on 'Integral Calculus' which he had taken from the library. On hearing this a professor who wanted the book for his use asked him to return it with the remark that he was doing 'aimless things' without attending to classwork. He would jump from Arithmetic to Algebra and from Algebra to Trigonometry and so on to higher mathematics and evolve a theorem or formula of general application. In the senior F. A. Class we were put together in the Mathematics section under Mr. P. V. Seshu Iyer, who later on became Principal of the College. Strangely enough I was the monitor of the class, though by virtue of his talents he deserved that post. He was quite unmindful of what was going on around him being preoccupied with his own researches and reducing them to writing and incorporating them in note books after note books. He had no inclination whatsoever for either following the class lessons or taking any interest in any subject other than Mathematics. By this time Mr. P. V. Séshu Iyer who had become conscious of Ramanujan's innate powers let him alone while other s tudents including myself were asked to do home exercises, to work problems on the board and to write impositions, a rare punishment nowadays even in the High School, not to speak of

the College classes. It may be noted that the professor encouraged him to solve problems in the mathematical journals like the London Mathematical Gazette.

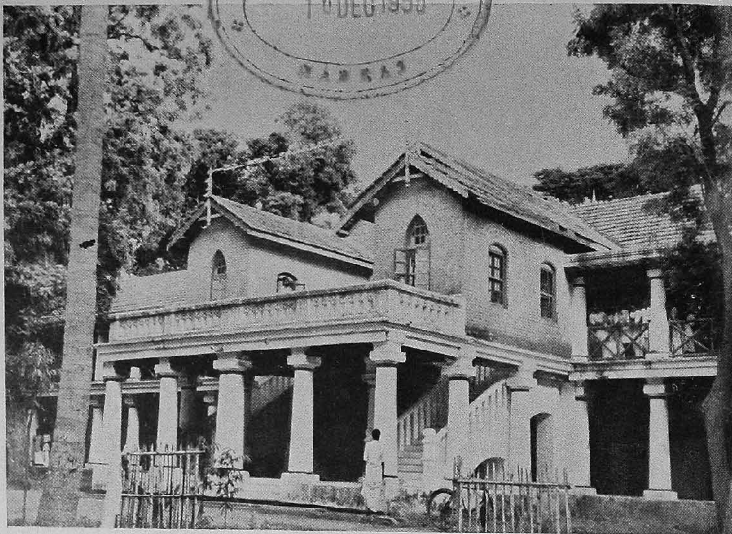
After some break in his studies in this College, Ramanujan joined Pachayappa's College, Madras. He failed in the F. A. Fxamination of 1907. This was a setback in his career, as he could not get a job unless he possessed a University diploma. The university with its water-tight system of examinations and rigid courses of study is not a congenial soil for the growth of genius like that of Ramanujan. Oppressed by 'chill penury' and finding it impossible to earn his livelihood he had to seek some job which would sustain him and at the same time allow him leisure to carry on his research. In 1909 he was married and the burden of maintaining his family and his poor aged parents added to his troubles and difficulties. He was conscious that he had something new to give to the world and he yearned for any help he could get for having his papers printed and published. Nowhere could he find any encouragement. I have heard of an instance where he had a rebuff from a mathematics professor of note, who remarked that unless he passed his B. A. Degree there was no hope for him. Fortunately for him, he soon got into touch with reputed mathematicians of the day, who were destined to play an important rôle in shaping his future career. Mr. V. Ramaswamy Iyer, the founder of the Indian Mathematical Society, to whom Ramanujan went for a clerical post, found out on perusing his note-books that a clerical job would stifle the genius in him. He therefore sent him to Madras with notes of introduction to Mr. P. V. Seshu Iyer and some other professors. After serving as a temporary clerk in the Accountant General's Office Ramanujan sought an interview with Mr. Ramachandra Rao, the then Collector of Nellore, who has given us a vivid account of his first interview with him. Mr. Rao sent him to Madras, offering him a monthly allowance with a note to Sir Francis Spring, Chairman of the Port Trust, to take interest in him. He served as a clerk in the Port Trust office for some time on a salary of Rs. 30/- per month. Mr. Narayanaswamy Iyer of that office and Sir Francis Spring were impressed with his abilities and encouraged him in everyway possible. At that time G. T.



SRI D. NAMASIVAYAM, M. A., L. T.
Principal, 1948-1951.



MAJOR S. PARTHASARATHI, M. A.
Principal, 1952-53.



The Victoria Jubilee Hostel



The College Pond

Walker, F. R. S., Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, happened to visit Madras and both Sir Francis Spring and Mr. Narayanaswamy Iyer took this opportunity to bring Ramanujan's works to his notice. At his instance, a scholarship of Rs. 75/- per month from the University of Madras was offered to him. This was in the year 1913 and from this time he was able to pursue his researches without interruption and without the trouble of toiling for his livelihood.

It was during this period that the historic contact of Ramanujan with Professor Hardy, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, occurred, and this proved to be of momentous importance in the whole of Ramanujan's career. A paper entitled 'Orders of Infinity' had been published by Mr. Hardy. Ramanujan wrote to Mr. Hardy on 16th January 1913 a letter in which he made a reference to this: '..............on page 36.........I find a statement that no definite expression has been found yet for the number of prime numbers less than any given number. I have found an expression which very nearly approximates the real number, the error being negligible. Being poor, if you are convinced that there is anything of value, I would like to have my theorems published....". Along with this letter and the solution, he sent papers containing his discoveries and solutions to problems which baffled the intellect of the best mathematicians of the time. Mr. Hardy showed the papers to the other Professors of the University and they all decided that he should be brought to England for affording him scope for the full display of his genius so that he might contribute his own share to the advancement of Mathematical knowledge. Early in 1914, Mr. N. H. Neville, a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, happened to come to Madras to deliver a course of lectures. Mr. Hardy had instructed him to persuade Ramanujan to go to England. His mother's caste scruples stood in the way of Ramanujan's acceptance of the offer; but eventually, prompted, it is said, by the family deity, Namagiri, whom she saw in her vision one night, she consented to her son proceeding to England. Mr. Neville got him a University scholarship of £250/- a year, tenable for two years in England.

Ramanujan set sail for England in March 1914 and was admitted to the University College, Cambridge, which supplemented his scholarship by an award of Rs. 60/- a year. He remained in

England from 1914 to 1919. There under the guidance of Prof. Hardy, Mr. Littlewood and others he showed great improvement in his studies and acquainted himself fully with the up-to-date material then available in the field of Mathematics and was able to direct his researches in channels unchartered by his predecessors. He published a number of original papers embodying his researches and containing new formulae and theorems which were highly admired. The results, however, were arrived at by him by a process of intuition and so he was not able to supply the proof himself but left them to be worked out by the professors of the Cambridge University. His mastery of number was marvellous. "Every positive integer was a personal friend of Ramanujam," says Prof. Littlewood.

His wonderful researches won the admiration of the world of Science. On the 28th of February 1918, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, the greatest honour that England could confer on any of her scientists. Ramanujan was the first Indian to secure that distinction and the only Indian F. R. S. in Mathematics so far. On the 13th of October he was elected a Fellow of Trinity College—a prize fellowship of £250/- a year with no duties or conditions attached.

While thus honours were heaped upon him and while he was at the height of his renown and material advancement he had a fatal attack of tuberculosis. He was brought to Madras where he died at the early age of thirty-three in April 1920. THE LONDON TIMES' Obituary read "There is something peculiarly sad in the spectacle of a genius dying young, dying with the first sweets of recognition and success tasted, but before the full realization of the powers that lie latent within."

His personal appearance is best described in the words of Mr. Ramachandra Rao in his account of his interview with Ramanujan: "A short uncouth figure, stout, unshaved, not overclean, but with the conspicuous feature—shining eyes." His dress was of the simplest kind. Clad in a dhoti and with a towel on, he used to call on me at my residence, on his way to the house of a relative of mine to whom he was giving tuition for a remuneration of Rs. 7/- a month. Later on, at Madras, his friends taught him to wear a decent dress, especially

on the eve of his departure for England. Simple, unostentatious, innocent like a child, unconscious of his own genius, and without pride or vanity, he combined in himself rare gifts with an exemplary character. His knowledge of the world was poor and he was not able to judge men or things properly. I had occasions to visit him at 'Summer' house in Triplicane, when he would open his note books and explain to me intricate theorems and formulae without in the least suspecting that they were beyond my understanding or knowledge. His orthodoxy was of an extreme type. He was a strict vegetarian, observed all caste rules punctiliously and cooked his own food during his stay in England.

In religion he had a firm belief in the existence of a supreme being and he practised it by trying to lead a pure and pious life. He did not know much of philosophy. He used to talk about God and our conduct in life in a mathematical way. He told me that we should regulate our lives to reach Godhead by approximating to the upright path, even as an asymptote approaches along the curve and finally touches it at infinity. A peculiar feature in his character was his utmost credulousness. This is instanced by his adoration of one Sathyapriya Rao, the then gymnastic instructor of the Town High School, who had a mental aberration. The latter used to gaze at the sun and blurt out some nonsense of which nothing could be made out, but which struck Ramanujan as extraordinary and which he attributed to his occult powers. He himself believed that Goddess Namagiri inspired him in his dreams with formulae which, rising from bed, he would jot down and verify. Besides mathematics, the only subject in which he took some interest was palmistry. On seeing the lines on his palms he used to tell his friends that his span of life was short and that it would not extend beyond 35 years or so—a prophecy, which, alas! proved to be too true.

He was a dutiful son of his parents and had always cared for the welfare of the members of his family. He set apart for the due maintenance of his family during his absence in England a decent portion of his scholarship amount which was paid every month by the University as directed by him.

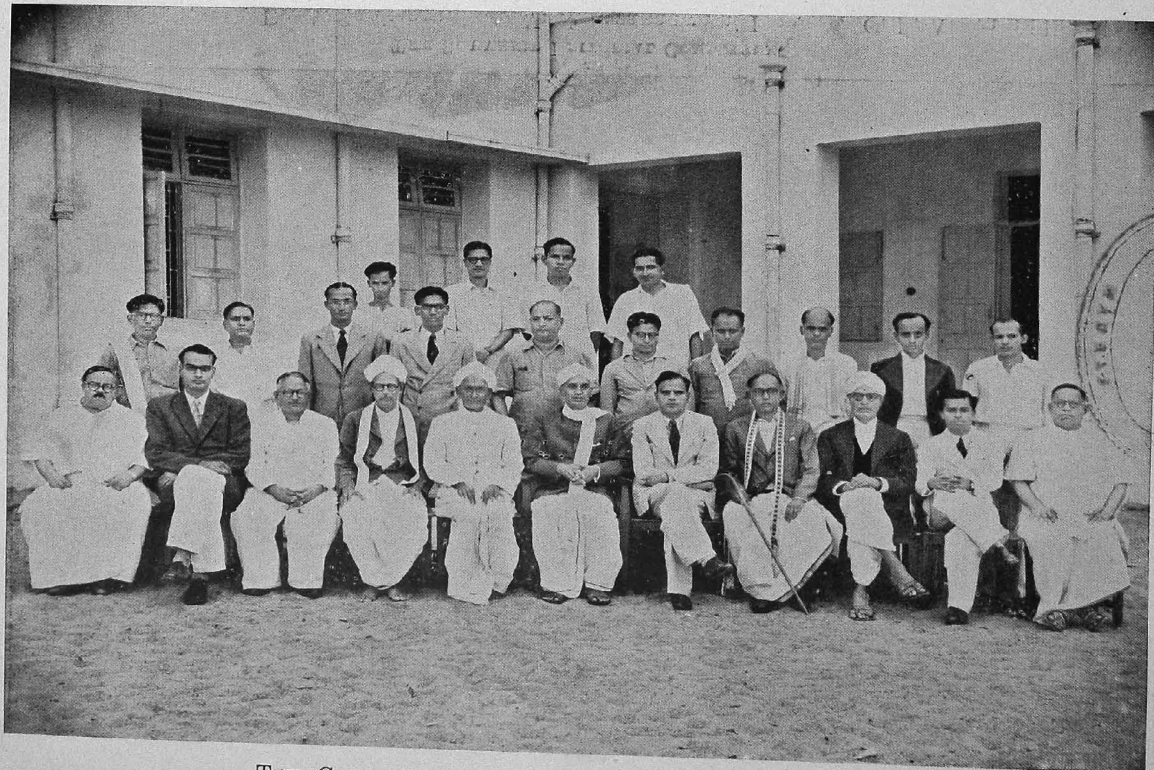
Though estimates may differ as regards the nature and importance of his work, in his profound originality and the processes by which he arrived at mathematical truths, he stands unique and has few rivals in the field. In this connection, the tribute paid to him by Prof. Hardy is worth quoting. "He is beyond question the best mathematician of the modern times........He will always be rather eccentric in his choice of subjects and methods of dealing with them....But of his extraordinary gifts there can be no question. In some ways he is the most remarkable mathematician I have ever known."

A full account of his discoveries and papers published by him is beyond the scope of the present article and must be reserved for a separate treatise.

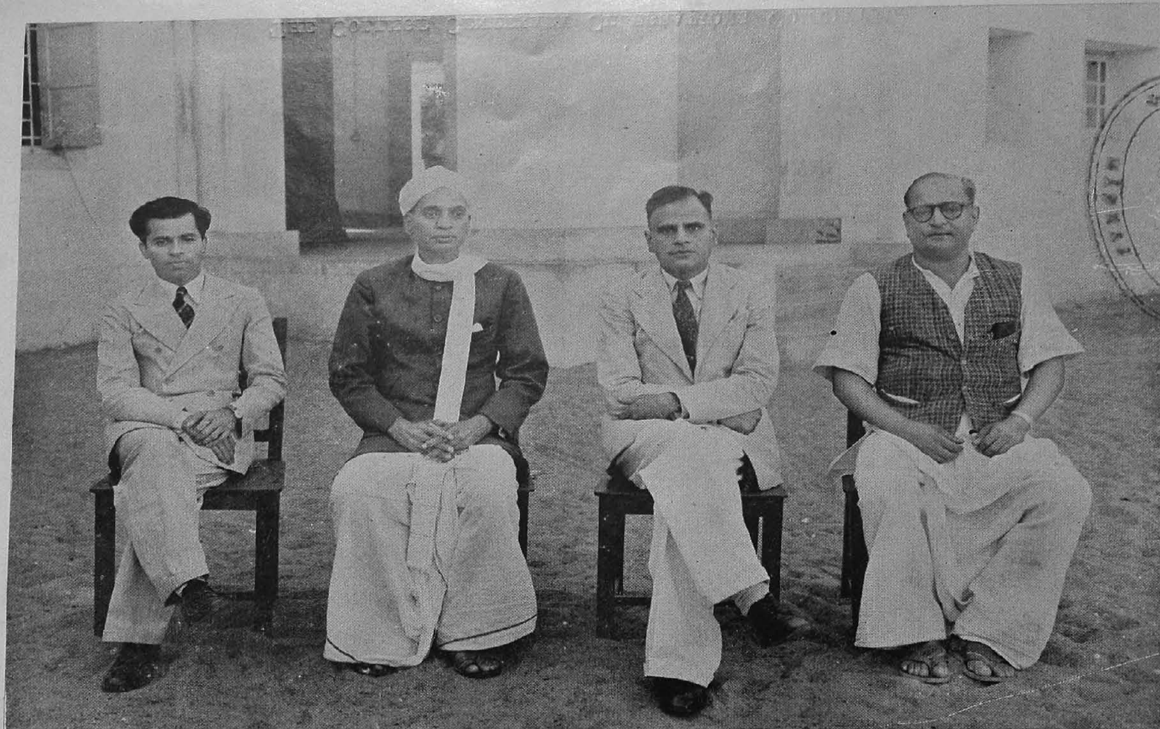
A brief reference to some of his important contributions may not be out of place. Ramanujan's work lay mainly in the theory of numbers, one of the oldest branches of Mathematics. Here, a brilliant genius could discover a new result by repeated experiments with numbers. But even if a guessed formula is true in a large number of cases where it has been tested, it would be no proof but only a conjecture. Ramanujan's work contains many proofs and conjectures. He had an uncanny insight into algebraic form and took up some of the most difficult problems, which mathematicians in various countries had taken up in different times, but quite independently and in ignorance of what they had done. It was but natural that many of his guesses should have been proved true and some wrong, but even the wrong guesses revealed the brilliance of his genius. Besides the Theory of Numbers, special mention may be made of his theorems regarding infinite series, Elliptic functions, Theory of Partitions, modular relations and mock-theta functions.

It is to be fervently hoped and prayed on this occasion of the centenary of the College that more mathematicians of the type of Ramanujan may be produced by our *Alma Mater* and that the city of Kumbakonam may maintain its reputation of being the 'Cambridge of South India.'

N. Hari Rao M. A., B. L.



THE COLLEGE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE



THE SOUVENIR EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

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Professor K. Sundararama Iyer

Professor K. Sundararama Iyer was born at Palamaner in the then North Arcot District, Madras Presidency, on 4th October 1854, in an orthodox family. His father Sesha Iyer was a Revenue Inspector in the Kumbakonam Taluq from 1863 to 1873. Mr. Sundararama Iyer began his education in an elementary school in Swamimalai in his seventh year. He had Upanayanam in 1862 at Tirupathi. In 1864 he joined the Provincial School at Kumbakonam, which was then under Mr. W. A. Porter as headmaster and Mr. T. Gopala Rao as Assistant Master. He passed the Matriculation examination in 1869 and the F. A. in 1871 both in the First class. He graduated in February 1874. He was appointed as a Teacher on Rs.60/- in a High School at Ernakulam. In the second half of 1875, he was appointed as Senior Assistant Master in the then Government Zillah (High) School at Salem. He obtained a job in 1877 in the Wardlaw London Mission School at Bellary and subsequently as second master of the Town High School, Kumbakonam. He served in the Brennen Zillah school at Tellicherry from April 1877 to August 1881. Mr. Sundararama Iyer took the M. A. degree in March 1881, taking History, Economics & Philosophy as his subjects. He was appointed a lecturer in the Kumbakonam College in August 1881. At about the close of 1881, he was co-opted to the Town High School Committee. In 1890, at the request of the Travancore Government Mr. Sundararama Iyer went to Travancore on Rs. 300/- as tutor to His Highness the Second Prince of Travancore, Prince Marthanda Varma, to coach up the latter for the B. A. degree examination in Branch V (History & Economics). Prince Marthanda Varma passed the B. A. degree examination in Madras in 1891. As the Prince was keen on studying for the M. A. degree examination, Mr. Sundararama Iyer was permitted by the the Madras Government to remain in Trivandrum till 1893. Early in 1893, Swami Vivekananda after travelling in North and South India, went to Trivandrum and stayed with Mr. Sundararama Iyer for a week, made friends with the leading men of the place and had also an audience with the Maharajah.

In 1894, Sundararama Iyer reverted to the Madras Educational department and became a lecturer in History & Economics in the Kumbakonam College. He was transferred to the Rajahmundry College, where he served during 1895 to 1896. In 1905 he acted as Professor of History in Presidency College. He retired in 1907. After retirement, he began to take interest in Hindu religion and Philosophy and for that purpose obtained a working knowledge of Sanskrit. He organized a Vedanta class in his house with the aid of an able Pandit. He also received initiation in Yoga. He was the Secretary of the Porter Town Hall for many years. He assiduously collected funds and by strenuous endeavour brought into existence the Gopala Rao Library. He presented 400 volumes to the Gopala Rao Library in 1896. He placed the Advaita Sabha, Kumbakonam, then working in a small way for many years, on a stable basis, besides contributing Rs. 2000/- out of his funds, now much depleted by the loss of his life's savings by the crash of Arbuthnut & Co. in 1906, and by collecting money from the public, and continually travelling for that purpose. In the end, the Sabha was placed on a substantial and stable basis, himself continuing as secretary and arranging annual sessions of Pandits. In 1909, he went to Tinnevelly at the request of influential men of the place and took up the Principalship of the Tinnevelly Hindu College to restore discipline in the College and rehabilitate the institution. In spite of the ardent request of the committee of the College, he stuck to his resolve to work in the College for only one year and not more, left the College and returned to Kumbakonam wherein he spent the remaining porton of his life except a period of four years in Mylapore, Madras, till he died at the ripe old age of 84 in Kumbakonam on 5th May 1938. During his retirement, he was incessantly studying, writing and delivering lectures. While in Madras, he was connected for five years with the 'Hindu Message', a weekly Journal dealing with the higher aspects of the Hindu Religion. Soon after his death, THE HINDU in a sketch of his life wrote "Professor Sundararaman commanded universal reverence and esteem. His personality, though unassuming, was none the less impressive. His writings were marked by a breadth of outlook and a virility that won appreciation. A lover of the old and a close student of history, he had a profound faith in the Hindu Sastras. His heart went

out to the low and the suffering and there was no worthy cause which he did not actively sympathize in and generously donate for. His literary productions were scholarly, realistic and analytical. His powerful pen he utilised to repel the many wilful attacks on ancient Hindu religion which the traducers of Hinduism often indulged in. Philosophy he mastered and taught. Sanskrit he learned late and used his learning to illuminate and modernise the neglected Hindu philosophic doctrines. Books were his constant companions and causes his spouse."

R. Aravamudu Iyengar
Secretary,
Prof. Sundararama Iyer Research Institute, Kumbakonam.



Rao Bahadur A. C. Pranatharthihara Iyer

He was born on 20th Feb. 1857 and died on 8th June 1938. He was educated in the Govt. College, Kumbakonam and was employed in the different branches (School, Inspection and Direction) of the Madras Educatianal Department. He rose to the position of Deputy Director of Public Instruction and Inspector of Schools. He retired in 1937 as the Registrar of Books, Madras. He was member of various Municipal Councils, Taluk and District Boards. As Fellow of the Madras University, President of the Madras Teachers' Guild (from 1919 to 1925) and a member of the Trust Board of Sir M. Ct. Muthiah Chettiar High School, Madras, he gave valuable guidance and help to the members of the teaching profession. During the period he held office in the Education Department a number of reforms was introduced in the system of education. The scheme of lectures which he was instrumental in organizing for the benefit of the Elementary School teachers of Madras (on the line of the University Extension Lectures in England) had been productive of excellent results. His staunch advocacy of the rights of Indians in the educational service before the Royal Commission on Public Services in India is a proof of his characteristic independence. In recognition of his meritorious services he was awarded the title of Rao Bahadur and was a Member of the Indian Service Order. An endowment for a Prize has been instituted in his name in Govt. College, Kumbakonam where he studied.

M. Subramanian,
Retd. Accountant-General, Madras.

Dr. S. Rangachari

I had the honour and privilege of knowing very well Dr. S. Rangachari, when he was practising in Madras as a doctor for more than 15 years. He was one of the most distinguished doctors that adorned the medical profession in India. Numerous were his patients in Madras consisting of the rich, the middle class and the very poor. Before he came to Madras, he belonged to the Government Medical Service and he was the District Medical Officer in Tanjore and other districts. After Government service for some years, he left it and entered the career of a private medical practitioner and set up practice in Madras. He pursued his profession with great zeal, energy and enthusiasm. He was an adept in all branches of the medical profession. He was a physician, a surgeon and a gynaecologist at the same time. He established a nursing home of his own in the Poonamallee High Road. Anybody could go to him for treatment, whether he was suffering from any long-standing, chronic ailment or from any acute disease requiring surgical operation. He would attend with equal ability and earnestness a maternity case or a surgical case or any patient suffering from other ailments requiring clinical treatment. This itself is a rare quality in any doctor. He did not spare himself in his work. He scorned delights and lived laborious days. It may be said without fear of exaggeration that he was a born 'Karmayogi'. From morning 5 o' clock throughout the day and even at nights, he was ever ready to respond to any call and he would attend to any patient in the shortest possible time. He moved about in the city in a very big and luxurious car. Except for some hours of sleep in his house, it may be said that he practically lived in his car. He tried to attend to as many patients as possible during a day. He loved his profession intensely and dedicated his whole life to the noble cause of relieving suffering humanity. He was generous to the poor and he gave treatment free to them. He was always accessible and available to poor patients. He was very quick in the diagnosis of the disease and fully comprehended the method of treatment so well that he used to stay in a patient's house only for a very short time. In

the beginning many patients did not appreciate this quality. But afterwards, having fully derived the benefit of his advice in many cases, people began to appreciate that it was his extraordinary ability and energy that distinguished him from the rest of the members of his profession.

There was another characteristic of his which requires mention. He rarely sent bills to either the rich or the middle class patients. He accepted without looking into the payment whatever was offered to him by his patients. As in India people have a feeling that if they do not pay the doctor's fees, they incur sin and fear that their disease may not be completely eradicated, Dr. Rangachari was not put to any loss on this account.

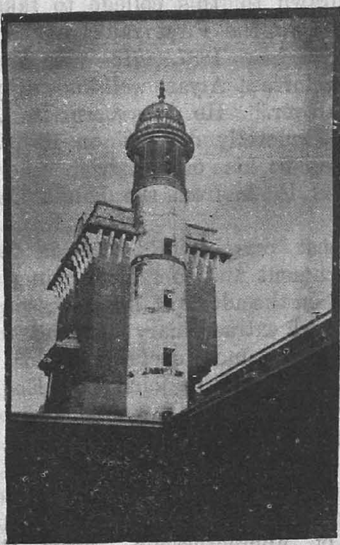
He was a man of few words and many patients who would like that the doctor should hear everything about their complaints and should also say many soothing and consoling words to them were at first disappointed. But as they grew accustomed to his manner and his method and felt that they were safe in his hands, they ceased to grumble about it. In fact, towards the latter part of his career as a medical practitioner in Madras, he became very popular and thousands flocked to him aud appreciated his ability and generosity.

Though Dr. Rangachari was a man of a variety of tastes, he had no time for pursuing them and so it appeared to us all that he had no second interest in life. Those who knew him well could discern in him a person of culture and taste. In private conversation he was jolly and could command caustic wit. He was good and loving to friends. His popularity was so great and his services were so greatly appreciated in Madras that, on his passing away at an early age, all people gathered to mourn his loss and erected a statue for him which adorns the city. The erection of a statue in memory of the services rendered by him was a unique honour done by the public of Madras.

The Kumbakonam College should be proud to have had him as one of its Old Boys. He amassed a fairly large fortune and left by his will a very large amount for various charities, especially scholarships for poor students taking up the study of

medicine or other branches of learning. His one great hobby was the buying of very good and big cars and of driving them at great speed and of attending to the repairs of the cars himself without even the assistance of a mechanic. He made experiments on himself in dietetics and many people in Madras felt that these experiments were largely responsible for his early death. In his passing away, the medical profession lost one of its most distinguished members and South India, one of her noblest sons who dedicated his whole life to the service of the people in the true spirit of 'Karmayoga'.

K. Balasubramania Aiyar,
Advocate, High Court, Madras.



Dewan Bahadur Sri A. V. Ramalinga Aiyar

Among the galaxy of names adorning the records of an old college, those of statesmen, politicians, judges, doctors and engineers always merit our consideration, because of the constructive work they leave behind for posterity to emulate or follow. Kumbakonam College reminds people of very astute mathematicians. The *alumni* of that institution can be marked out by their performances in their later life as well. To be brief, some of our best intellects, who have indelibly written themselves on the pages of the history of the South belonged to the Government College, Kumbakonam, nestling close to the river Cauveri, herself contributing so much to the fertility of the race which grew up on its banks.

Sri A. V. Ramalinga Aiyar, though born in distant Tinnevelly was drawn to this college to take his degree in Bachelor of Arts with the First rank in the First Class in Mathematics in the year 1887. He was a favourite of the late Prof. R. V. Srinivasa Aiyar, well-known by the sobriquet, "Euclid Srinivasa Iyer." He was born in a village called Kodaganallur in Tinnevelly district on 10th July 1867. His early education was in his own district, where he matriculated and passed his F. A. from the Hindu College.

Though a post carrying Rs. 150/- in the Secretariat of the Madras Government was offered to young Ramalingam, he rejected the offer on the advice of his professor R. V. Srinivasa Aiyar, who perceived extraordinary abilities in the young man for shaping him into a more useful individual both to society and the country. Naturally he joined the Engineering College, as his aptitude directed him that way, and passed out First from that College.

After undergoing practical training in the P. W. D. workshops at Rayapuram and at the Periyar Head-works he completed his term of apprenticeship. From then onwards he served in the capacity of Asst. Engineer at the Periyar Main Dam. His high engineering skill and accurate knowledge of

higher mathematics were the determining factors in the successful completion of the Periyar Project. Subsequently when there was a sensational case against the Madras Government, he ably stood the cross-examination of Eardly Norton and that decided the case in favour of the Madras Government. He was immediately promoted (1913) as Superintending Engineer—a post for the first time to be given to a South Indian—and again in 1922 he became the Chief Engineer for the Madras Presidency—an honour and distinction hardly within reach of Indians in those times.

In his work he was known to have been very efficient and painstaking. He never flinched from labour of any kind. He was indeed a task-master to those under him. Having had himself a course of strenuous service in his younger years, he believed that others also desirous of service in the Government, should put forth enough hard work to make both the Government and the people realise how much engineering could render a land prosperous.

After retirement in 1923, he continued his interest in the profession to which he belonged. In partnership with the late Sri R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliar, he proved a very able consultant Engineer for a number of years. His services of a free nature to various bodies and charitable institutions both in the city of Madras and outside in the Province, were much appreciated. Thus the Ramakrishna Mission Home, the P. S. High School, the Hindu High School, the Avvai Home, the National Girls' School, the Loyola College etc. were immensely benefited by his personal supervision of their building constructions.

He was connected with the University of Madras as a member of the Senate from 1923 to 1930 and as a member of the Syndicate in 1921. He attended a conference of Engineers at Simla as a representative of the Madras University in 1913, and in 1938 he went to Ceylon for advising the Ceylon Government in their Drainage Improvements and major Irrigation Schemes.

Apart from his chosen path of service he rarely strayed into other fields. To the last he was known as a gentleman, never

shirking any piece of work taken up by him. His main preoccupations being of the Engineering line, he occasionally taught younger persons how to make themselves efficient in work. Beyond these, his interests were limited. His daily habits proved how early systematic application of both mind and body to work could take a man not only to the top of the profession he had chosen, but also enable him to live a good and long life. His regular morning and evening walks along the roads of the city of Madras reminded many a younger person, starting life, how effortless one could toil on in life provided early habits were formed with a healthy mental outlook and an unfailing sense of duty.

One can say of him that unstinted capacity for work and honesty of purpose made him a model for those who followed him in the service of Engineering.

K. Chandrasekharan.



The College Bell-Tower

C. R. Pattabhirama Iyer

Mr. C. R. Pattabhirama Iyer, a distinguished Old Boy of our College, was born in 1857. His father Mr. Ramaswami Iyer was a Tahsildar and was highly esteemed as an efficient officer. He was a man of strong physique and indomitable will. His wife Parvathi Ammal was a pious lady.

Mr. Pattabhirama Iyer was a man of fine figure with a keen intellectual face. He took his Degree in 1873 and was placed in the First class and stood First in the Presidency. Later on he took his B. L. Degree and started practice as an Advocate in Tanjore. His thorough mastery of Law and his power of advocacy and his forensic eloquence impressed everyone. After a decade he moved on to Madras and achieved great success in his profession as a lawyer. He had a very strenuous life and never made a distinction between rich and poor clients.

In 1899 he became the Judge of the City Civil Court. It was expected that he would be elevated to the High Court Bench. But that was not to be. God wished otherwise and in his forty-fifth year in 1902, the cruel hand of death snatched him away. He died of dropsy.

As a Judge he was a master of principles and precedents and he studied the records of every case with care. He was a shrewd judge and was able to spot the truth instinctively. He had a peculiar habit of reading records, standing. He used to walk up and down his room, thinking seriously before coming to any decision.

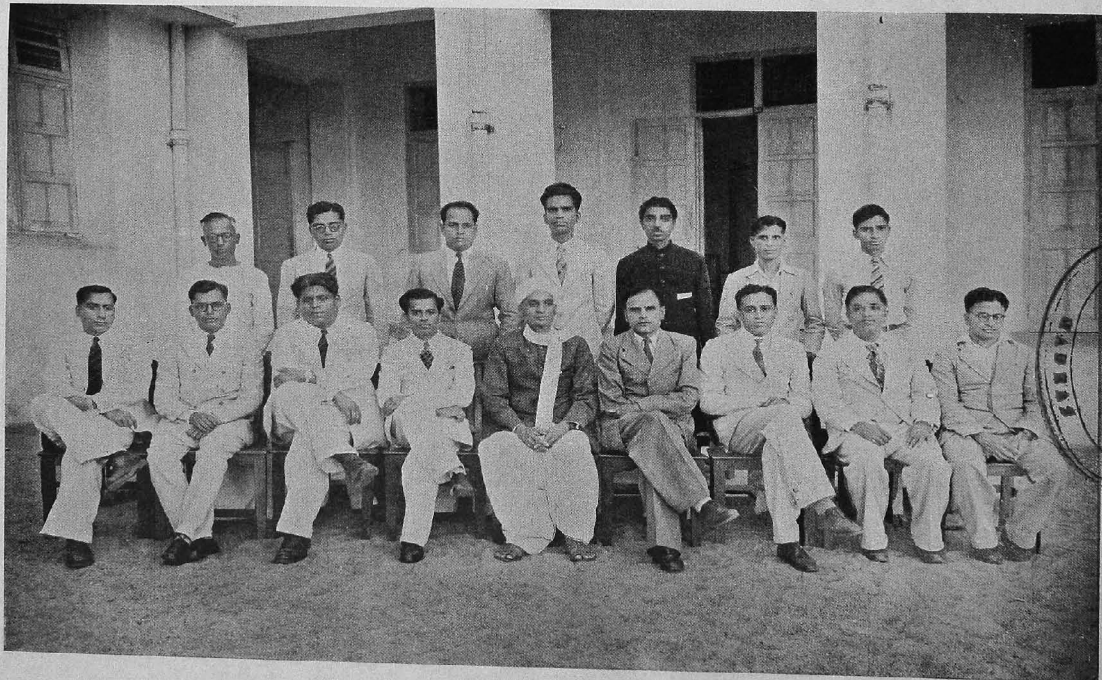
He had a great love for Literature—both English and Sanskrit—and a special admiration for Raja Yoga and Shakti philosophy. He had a high regard for Sri Sankaracharya and he combined piety with religious theory and practice. He was thus great in many ways. Many of these prominent traits we find in his illustrious son Dr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, now Vice-Chancellor, simultaneously of two Universities.

Dewan Bahadur Srinivasaraghava Ayyangar

Dewan Bahadur Srinivasa Raghava Ayyangar was a brilliant student of this College. He was one of the favourite pupils of Mr. W. A. Porter. Srinivasa Raghava Ayyangar had his early education in Kumbakonam, but he joined the Presidency College for his B. A. Course. He first came into prominence as a close observer and student of statistics. He compiled "Factors of the Great Indian Famine of 1887" and this brought him to the notice and approbation of Sir Henry Stokes. He was Inspector-General of Registration. The then Governor of Madras, Lord Connemara, set him to the task of summing up the results of British Administration between 1850 and 1890. The immediate reception of this work "Forty years of Progress in British Administration" was tremendously hostile. This survey sought to prove that the period under review was one of increasing prosperity. It was he who laid the foundation for practically every great economic reform, and the reorganization of the Registration department has won for him an enduring reputation as an administrator. He laid the seed for the co-operative movement. He insisted on effective steps being taken to combat agricultural indebtedness. He opened the eyes of the Government to the fact that the soil needed resuscitation. He also paved the way for a policy of state aid to industries.

He was a great educational reformer as well. He found that the educated were drifting away from the uneducated and thus formed a class by themselves. He insisted on the award of titles like "Mahamahopadhyaya" to deserving pandits and scholars. He was very much ahead of his times and made a thorough study of statistics and economics.

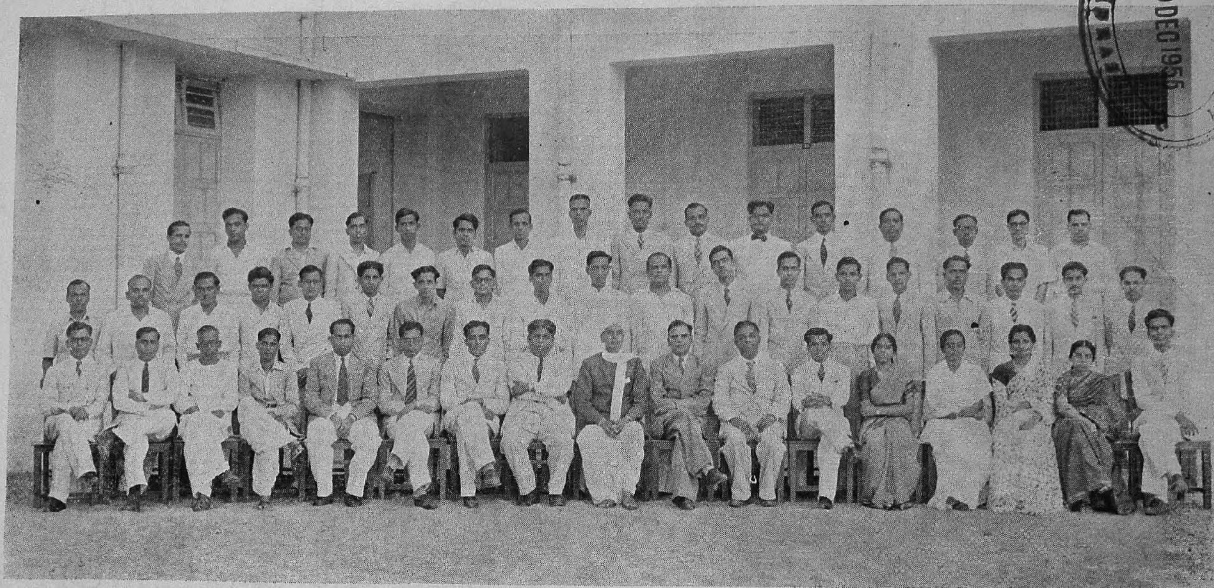
He became the Dewan of Baroda and made the state a model to the rest of India. He handled the plague and famine situation in that State in such a masterly manner that even the keen critic, Lord Curzon, praised him. "Mr. Srinivasa Raghava Ayyangar was a fore-runner of the modern school of statesmen who concentrate on the economic rather than on the purely political side of their work."



THE COLLEGE GENERAL COMMITTEE.

Seated: Messrs. R. Ranganathan, V. S. Angappan, G. Govindarajan, V. Gopalan Nair, Dr. A. Sankaran (Principal), V. Narayanaswami, O. R. Suryanarayanan, A. T. B. Saravanaswami, L. Rajagopalan.

Standing: Messrs. S. N. Ramachandran, R. Rajagopalan, P. Padmanabhan, V. Ramakrishnan, C. Santhanakrishnan (Speaker), R. K. Parthasarathy, R. Subramanian (Gen. Secretary).



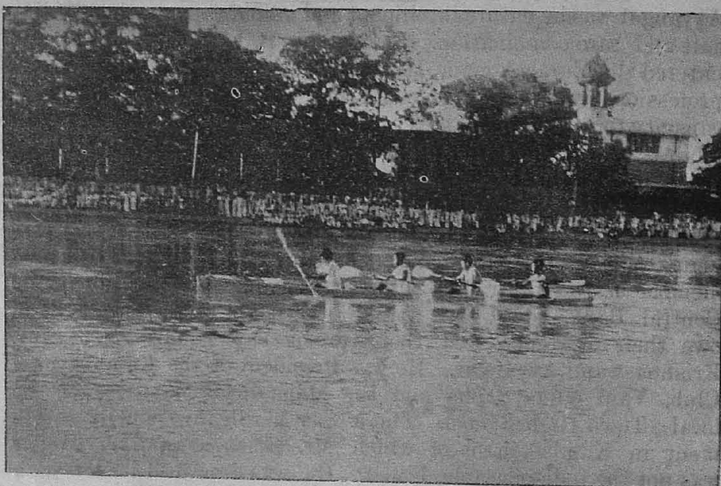
THE COLLEGE STAFF, 1954.

Rao Bahadur N. Krishnaswami Ayyangar

Rao Bahadur N. Krishnaswami Ayyangar, one of the distinguished Old Boys of our College was a self-made man. He was born in 1863 and started life as a schoolmaster. Once a schoolmaster, always a schoolmaster. Few are the schoolmasters who have ventured into pastures new. Mr. Krishnaswamy Ayyangar was by nature intelligent and industrious, rather a difficult and rare combination. He took his B. L. Degree in 1885 and entered the Kumbakonam Bar. He was very successful in his profession; but Law alone could not absorb all his energy and capacity for work. He took a lively, abiding interest in public affairs. He was elected to the Madras Legislative Council for the years 1909-12 and became also the Chairman of Kumbakonam Municipality. As Chairman he showed a remarkable grasp of problems affecting Kumbakonam and improved the town in many ways. He was Vice-President of the Taluk Board and member of the District Board. Three banking institutions—the Central Bank, the Union Bank and the Mutual Benefit Fund owe their existence and their prosperous conditions to Mr. Krishnaswami Ayyangar. He was President of the Kumbakonam Club, Vani Vilas Sabha and the Managing Committee of the local Town High School. There was hardly any public movement in Kumbakonam of which Mr. Krishnaswami Ayyangar was not the indispensable leader. He was a natural leader with a tall and imposing figure. He had a striking nose which showed his strong will and determination. Though he suffered from defective hearing he grasped things with an instinctive shrewdness. He cultivated remarkably regular habits and this kept him in a good condition to cope with the very arduous professional and public duties which clung to him to the last.

He had a good word for everyone, young or old, and he retained real youthfulness in the liveliness of the spirits and the wide interests he cultivated. He had a strenuous life and worked for many public causes. He passed away in June 1929.

Rao Bahadur N. Krishnaswami Ayyangar has founded a Prize to be awarded annually in the shape of a Gold Medal for the best essay in English from among the members of the College Union.



ONCE UPON A TIME

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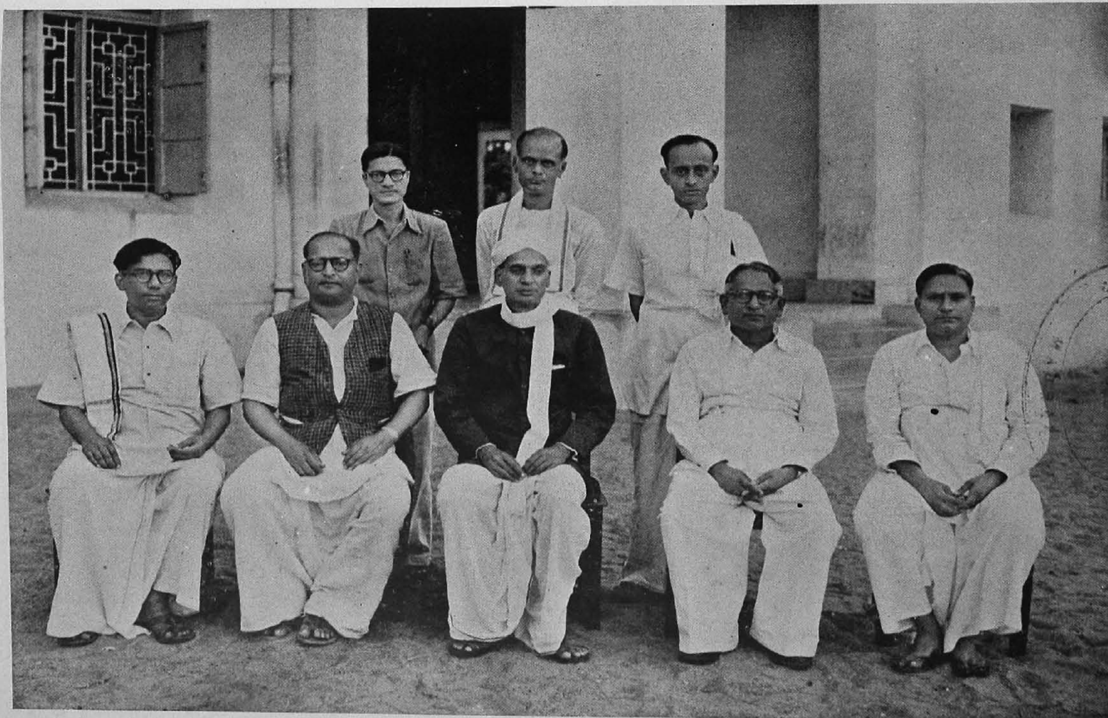
SECTION III

Reminiscences

A Message

The celebration on a grand scale of the establishment of the Kumbakonam College is not merely an event of outstanding importance in the life-history of a local institution or of Tamilnad, of which it is a shining ornament, or of Indian education in general, but it is also a noteworthy event in the history of India and of Indian Culture. Ours is an ancient culture which was luminous and beneficent and shed its rays of wisdom on the whole world when the rich and proud and progressive West was in comparative savagery. Great Universities like those at Nuddea and Nalanda, Taxila and Vikramasila were well-known all over the world long before those in Oxford and Cambridge and London and Paris rose to fame. But after the Reformation and the Renaissance the West went far ahead and the eminence of Science there has given to it a new world importance. The British rule in India was made possible by the raw age of science and rationalism and democracy and India had to learn the new lessons of modern knowledge to fulfil herself and have a great second Renaissance. In this task the Indian Universities have played a great part, though they came into being under the aegis of the British Rule and in a period of India's slavery. Under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi who was the finest flower of the union of the ancient Indian and the modern Western cultures, India has now attained her independence by the essentially Indian technique of *Satya* and *Ahimsa* (Truth and non-violence), thus adding a new white chapter to the black and blood-stained pages of the history of the world. The Kumbakonam College will never forget its origin and history and destiny or the great role which has been played by it as one of the makers of modern India. The Madras University, of which it is an ornament, will soon be celebrating its own centenary.

Oxford has been described by Matthew Arnold as the city of the dreaming spires. This description befits Kumbakonam even more appropriately. All the schools of Indian philosophic thought have flourished well at Kumbakonam for



THE COLLEGE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS CARNIVAL COMMITTEE.

Seated: K. P. Thangavelu Nadar, C. L. Aravamudha Iyengar, Dr. A. Sankaran (*Principal*), K. S. Seshadri, Chicca (S. Rengaswami),

Standing: K. V. Janakiraman, K. Srinivasan, R. Venugopalachari



C. L. ARAVAMUDHA IYENGAR AT WORK

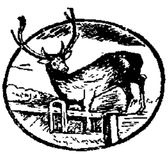


THE COLLEGE CENTENARY SPORTS COMMITTEE.

centuries. The Tanjore District is the child of the Cauveri and Kumbakonam is its brain. It has produced very great men in recent times and it used to be said: "What Kumbakonam thinks to-day the rest of India will think to-morrow." It owes this high distinction to the Kumbakonam College. The College attained early a very high name for eminence in Mathematics and used to be called the Cambridge of South India.

I hope that very soon, and as an aspect of the Centenary celebration, a syndicate of scholars who are *alumni* of the College will give to the world a correct and brilliant history of the College. I wish that the great ideas of the Kumbakonam College Old Boys' Association in regard to the Centenary Celebration by way of adding to the prestige and utility of the College will be realized soon. Incidentally I may proudly point out that 1954 marks also the Centenary of the birth of my honoured father who served the College for three decades and helped to build up a great name for it. I am now in my sere and yellow leaf and graduated from the College before our twentieth century began. I love my *Alma Mater* and am proud of her. May she play in Independent India an even greater role than she has played during the past one hundred years!

K. S. Ramaswami Sastri



My Recollections

I was not successful in my first attempt to pass the Matriculation Examination of the Madras University held in 1905. My Headmaster of the Town High School, Sri V. R. Venkateswara Iyer, who is now past 85 and who is still living, gave me a cut with his cane and expressed disappointment that one who had been expected to come out with a First Class should have failed. I passed the examination in 1906 in the First Class and entered the Kumbakonam College. I secured a scholarship for all the four years of my stay in the college. It was a scholarship intended for poor students. I passed both the F. A. and B. A. examinations in the First Class from the Kumbakonam College. Some of my class-mates who were studying in the F. A. class left Kumbakonam for Madras to study in the Presidency, Christian or Pachaiyappa's College but Mr. Littlehailes, the then Principal of the Presidency College, was good enough to keep a seat unfilled until he wrote and found out from me that finance stood in the way of my going to Madras.

I am not a believer in idle reminiscences. But one or two instances of my college days stand out in some relief.

One of my mathematics professors was outstanding and could without a second look at the figure on the blackboard containing all the twenty-six letters of the alphabet recall and explain the figure for a whole hour without making even a single mistake. Naturally he was too quick for some of the students who did not take kindly to him.

A second instance is the case of one of my class-mates who — may his soul rest in peace! — is no more with us, started practising for a mile race from the very next day after the sports. He was so tenacious that he practised running for almost all the 365 days and came out second in the mile race of the next year.

In those days Kumbakonam was not a centre for holding B. A. examinations. I therefore went to Madras to sit for the B. A. examination. I found by comparing notes that the students who had studied in the Madras Colleges had a good deal more of self-confidence than I had and could reel off answers to possible questions much more readily than those from mofussil colleges. However a few of the students of mofussil colleges did secure a First Class in their B. A. subjects. Success in the B. A. meant parting of ways. Some of my class-mates took to Law, some others studied for M. A. and a few joined the Engineering College which then admitted only 20 or 24 students to the engineer class each year. I have been uniformly lucky as Engineer. It was only once that my promotion was postponed and my junior got promoted in preference to me. I owe it to the kindness and generosity of the Madras Government that I was given an opportunity to study the engineering dams built across the rivers in the United Kingdom, the United States, France, Switzerland and Egypt. I may be permitted to advise my young friends of the student population that luck or what I would prefer to call God's grace plays a very major part in one's life. All that we can contribute is not to strike out short-cuts, but to have faith in the long-term policy of clinging to truth and doing our very best in whatever situation we may find ourselves.

N. Govindaraja Iyengar,
Member, Union Public Service Commission.

Mr. Govindarajan presided over the College & Old Boys' Day in March 1950; he has endowed a sum of Rs. 2000, and the Srimathi Champakalakshmi Ammal scholarship is being awarded annually out of the interest on this endowment. Ed.



Some Reflections

My association with the College relates to a period almost a third of a century ago. Since then my career has been devoted to tackling some aspect or other of the current affairs of the Government of India. For the last five years, I have been engaged in directing the financial organization of some of the country's biggest irrigation and power projects. All of us have heard about the mighty Bhakra-Nangal project on the Sutlej river in the Punjab, the Damodar Valley schemes in Bihar and Bengal, the colossal Hirakud Dam on the Mahanadi in Orissa and the like. I have been lending a helping hand, however humble it might be, in ensuring that these huge undertakings really turn out to be first class assets for the India of the future. Placed as I am, I work for the future. Normally, therefore, I do not look into the past nor am I a fond believer in a bygone "Golden Age".

The only thought that occasionally enters my mind in regard to the past is whether I have fully utilized all the opportunities afforded to me to the best advantage; in retrospect, I sometimes try to assess whether the institutions I passed through have succeeded in turning out worthwhile men—men of character who will contribute to the building up of a stable future.

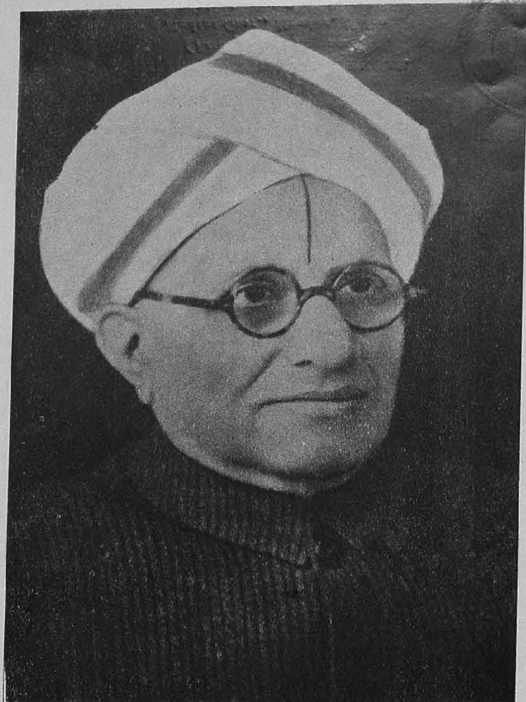
It is in this respect that the traditions of an institution serve its constituents continuously. When I entered the College, its hoary past embraced the achivements of stalwarts in the educational field like Porter and Gopala Rao. While the educationists of my days at College had the traditions of these giants to guide them, the student population, in whose ranks I stood included, could set before themselves, at any rate for emulation in dreams, the pinnacle in the research fields reached by the mathematical prodigy, Ramanujam. The teacher and the taught together thus ran a race with the past and in my reckoning, the results are not a little flattering to both.



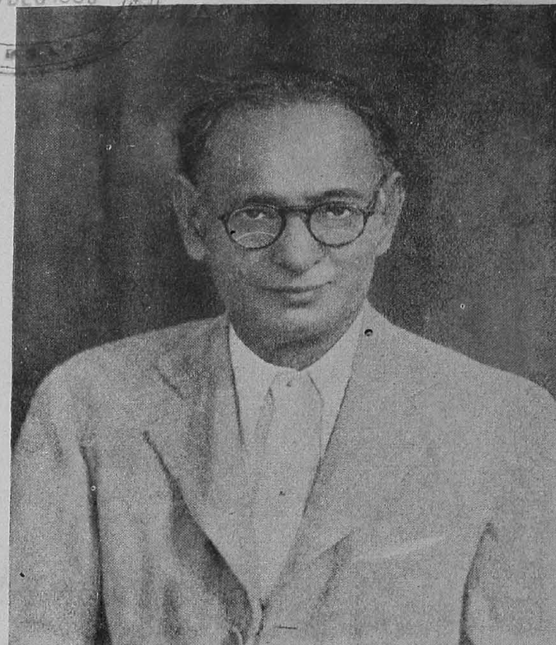
Sri N. Govindaraja Iyengar,
(Retd.) Chief Engineer,
Madras Govt., Member, Union
Public Service Commission.



Sri L. S. Vaidyanathan



RAJA BAHADUR S. ARAVAMUDU AIYANGAR
Retd. Minister, Hyderabad State.



C. R. LAKSHMIVARAHA IYENGAR

Principals like P. Rajagopala Iyer built excellent laboratories and workshops much in advance of the common standards required in their days. Professors like Patracharlar could succeed in making even fools understand Calculus. Professor Hanumantha Rao who was presiding over the Chemistry laboratory left teaching of Chemistry to his portly laboratory attender, Aiyah Pillai, while he himself infused a good knowledge of Economics into his pupils. I recollect an occasion when Prof. Hanumantha Rao presided over a learned lecture on "Hook Worm" by an American medical research worker of the Rockefeller Foundation. The Professor started his concluding remarks by asking, "Do we realize how much each one of us preys like a hook-worm on Society?".

On the few occasions when I have re-visited the College since my leaving it and rambled round its grounds, I could notice the enlargements in class-rooms, the additions made to the Laboratories and the Library. Every time I left the campus I had the feeling that the students of the institution are being given increasingly better facilities to fit themselves for making worthwhile contributions to the society in which they will live and grow. The good traditions that the College has always had and which are being continuously bettered, and added to, have already set up a halo round the institution at the close of a century of its existence. Let us hope that in the new era that is dawning, in the second century of its existence which the College now enters upon, the halo will grow brighter and brighter and will for ever be a beacon light for the guidance of the youngsters who will pass through its portals.

S. Ratnam,
Joint Secretary, Central Ministry of Finance.

My College

When, after a few years of scholastic life I emerged from the portals of the Kumbakonam College in the ante-penultimate year of the last century, little did I dream that I should be entering them again, after the lapse of only three years, though in a different role. In the case of the majority of Old Boys of an educational institution, their reminiscences will naturally be confined to the years when they were students; but mine include also my experiences when I was a member of the staff of the College. I was first appointed to the College in February 1902 and I retired from service in February 1937, having been a teacher for very nearly thirty-five years, twenty of which were spent in my *Alma Mater*. I believe that persons circumstanced like myself who maintained an active connection with the institution which gave them their education for such a long time can be counted on one's fingers, with some fingers to spare. In what follows I shall try to restrict the use of the first person singular as much as possible.

Between 1895 and 1898 there were four Principals, Mr. E. W. Middlemast, Mr. J. B. Bilderbeck, Rao Bahadur C. Nagoji Rao and Mr. A. A. Hall. The first was a routinist, the second a disciplinarian who, however, frequently relaxed, the third a martinet and the last a complete misfit. Mr. Middlemast was a mathematics man and taught that subject in the various classes; in addition he had to do some English in at least one class, as there was then a departmental rule that every Principal ought to give some instruction in English. Mr. Middlemast salved his conscience by asking students to read English passages from some book chosen at random. His successors all engaged the classes in English.

When it came to Mr. Hall's turn, the students got more amusement than instruction. Having spent many years in the Teachers' College, Saidapet, where he was supposed to teach graduates how to teach, Mr. Hall felt like a fish out of water when he was asked to serve in an Arts College. He was very fond of the word 'wonderful' and used it on all occasions when he was surprised. One morning when he entered the College building and looked at the College clock, he

remarked: "Kumbakonam is a very wonderful place; not only have I traversed the distance between my bungalow and the College in no time, but I have actually gained some minutes." He was not happy during his two months' stay here, except when he was playing his favourite game of tennis in the College courts. Unfortunately, every day, one incident or another put him out. For instance, one morning he happened to go to the College office for some information and the Head Clerk, who was hard of hearing, bent forward and placed his right hand near his right temple after the fashion of such people. A few minutes after, Mr. Hall went into the. Library for a book, and when he asked the Librarian about it, the latter repeated the Head Clerk's performance. Mr. Hall roared out: "Does the Kaveri water make you, too, deaf?" It must have been a great relief to him when he was posted back to his favourite Training College.

Among the *gurus* who brought up their disciples, special mention must be made of two to whom I owe a great deal. It was my good fortune to sit at the feet of Rao Bahadur S. Seshayya and Mahamahopadhyaya P. Rangachariar to learn my English and Sanskrit respectively. The little knowledge of the English language that I claim with pardonable pride and the great love I bear to its literature were instilled into me by the first-mentioned teacher. Every class of his was a feast of reason and a flow of soul. I was specially attracted by his method of teaching. When a passage was being construed he would choose more important and etymologically interesting words and explain them by referring to words or passages akin to them. He profusely illustrated his explanations from Sanskrit and Tamil classics. This served to drive home into the minds of his students the sense of the passages he was explaining.

The other gentleman was at that time the unchallenged head of Sanskrit scholars in South India. He was universally respected not only for his learning but for his sterling character and uprightness. One characteristic of his teaching which I have never met with in anybody else was that he never had in front of him a copy of the text-book he was teaching, whether it was an old classic or the latest lucubration of some obscure candidate for admission into the Pandit world who had somehow managed to

get his production prescribed as a text-book. Along with the other Mahamahopadhyaya, the well-known Tamil scholar, V. Swaminatha Ayyar, Pandit Rangachariar kept alive the musical side of College life by insisting in every class on students reading the stanzas of poetry they had to study and even the Sanskrit prose passages, in *ragas* appropriate to the occasion. Mr. Swaminatha Ayyar was himself a musician and he set the passages to the appropriate tunes and asked his students to imitate him. The corridors of the College used to ring with the sound of these recitations and though this disturbed the work in other classes by attracting attention, all enjoyed the occasion, including puritanical members of the staff.

Before closing this part of my reminiscences as a student, I wish to refer in particular to one lecturer, who became Principal only after I had completed my course. This was Mr. J. M. Hensman, a Jaffna gentleman, who was a most impressive teacher and took a personal interest in his students. The Hensman family has contributed a respectable quota to the Public Service. There was a Hensman in the Accountant-General's Office, Madras, another in the office of the Registrar, Madras University, a third in the High Court as Deputy Registrar and a fourth in the medical profession (he is still happily with us, less well-known, perhaps, than his wife, Mrs. Mona Hensman). My Professor was a good English scholar and his English classes formed a refreshing contrast to those of many other lecturers; when he retired from Government service, he went back to his native island and settled down in Jaffna, his ancestral town. He was unfortunate in his children, as all of them died before him, leaving only a grand daughter and her husband to tend him in his old age. When I visited Ceylon a few years ago, I made a special pilgrimage to pay my respects to my old teacher, whom I found in a most pitiably helpless state. He had lost the use of his limbs and had to be wheeled along in an invalid chair to attend to his physical needs. Before I took leave, the grand-daughter put a huge tome in my hands which she was using as a sort of Visitors' Book and asked me to sign and offer any remarks in it that I liked. What were my surprise and pleasure at finding that the page previous to the one I was shown contained two or three sentences from the pen of the Right Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastri!

II

I now come to the second part of my experiences—viz., those relating to the years when I was a member of the staff of the College. As stated earlier, I graduated from the College in January 1899 (the University examinations were then held in December and January and the academic year more or less coincided with the Calendar year, there being only two terms, from January to May and from July to December). I was posted as Assistant Lecturer of this College in Mathematics in February 1902. Most of the members of the staff were old teachers of mine, as was to be expected; but among the students, there were some who were either my class-mates or my juniors. Readers can easily picture to themselves the delicate situation in which I found myself. There were very few students younger than myself, and for the first few days I combated the feeling of inferiority complex which threatened to overwhelm me and came out of the struggle with flying colours. Within a week of my beginning my career as a teacher, the students in all the classes had once for all discovered that I was not to be trifled with. To the end of my career, I had absolutely no trouble with the students. But it took me a much longer time to get myself accustomed to the life in the Staff Common Room, where I had to rub shoulders with gentlemen who had been, but three years before, my teachers and whom I still approached with awe. The change-over from being called Patrachari to being hailed as Mr. Patrachariar was cataclysmic and I could not easily make up my mind to hobnob with my erstwhile *gurus*. But all of them were uniformly kind to me and contributed not a little to make me feel at ease. In this the oldest and most revered of my teachers had the largest share. If I were to forget any of these great souls—which God forbid—I should be guilty of the basest ingratitude. In course of time I got the same treatment from the officials and the public of Kumbakonam as was meted out to the older members of the staff.

A few words as to how I came to be posted to Kumbakonam as Assistant Lecturer may be of interest to readers. After I graduated from the College, I joined Presidency College

for my M. A. studies in Mathematics and after leaving it, joined the Teachers' College for my training.

I had just finished the L. T. course and answered the theory portion of the University Examination when I was offered the job in the Kumbakonam College. The circumstances under which this came about were briefly these :- The Mathematics Assistant Lecturer had to leave, having been selected for training for one of the newly created Police Deputy Superintendentships. For some time past, there was no member of the staff, other than the Pandit, who knew Sanskrit and as each of the four College classes had translation from Sanskrit into English and *vice versa*, somebody had to be found for doing that work. The Librarian (the same gentleman into whose ears Mr. Hall shouted) had been asked to do the translation in addition to his own duties in the Library. After doing this extra work for some time, he asked for additional remuneration which was, unreasonably enough, refused by the Director. In his turn the Librarian refused to work without any salary.

With matters at this stage, there occurred the mathematics vacancy referred to above. In asking the Director for a new mathematics man, the Principal had added that he wanted also a Sanskrit graduate for translation work. By the fortunate accident of knowing Sanskrit as well as Mathematics I got the job. I continued in Kumbakonam for about eight years when I was transferred to Saidapet. I came back to this College after having occupied the coveted position of Assistant Professor in the Presidency College for a short time. In 1922, I was once again transferred, this time to distant Anantapur from which I had to migrate to various places: Rajahmundry, Coimbatore and Guindy, until, finally, in 1931 I returned to Kumbakonam 'to die at home at last.'

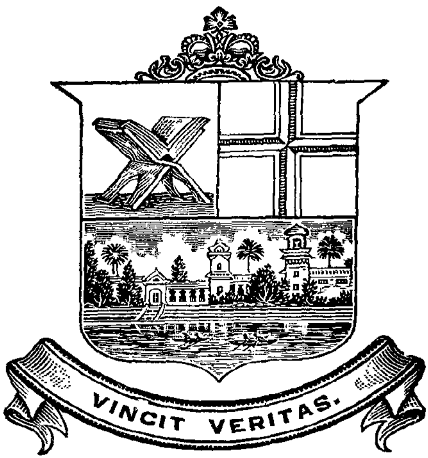
Throughout all this period the staff common room was my Paradise. At no time did I find any discord or misunderstanding among the members of the staff and the various common lunches in the common room had much to do to bring about this harmony. Mr. A. S. Vaidyanatha Ayyar (the Professor of English) was the most entertaining member

of the common room, though each contributed his share to the common fund of cheerfulness.

I shall stop here and bid farewell to my readers (if any), informing them that I am still going strong in spite of my seventy two years and have not lost my zest for teaching not only mathematics but every subject.

May my College flourish for ever.

K. S. Patrachari



THE COLLEGE CREST (OLD)

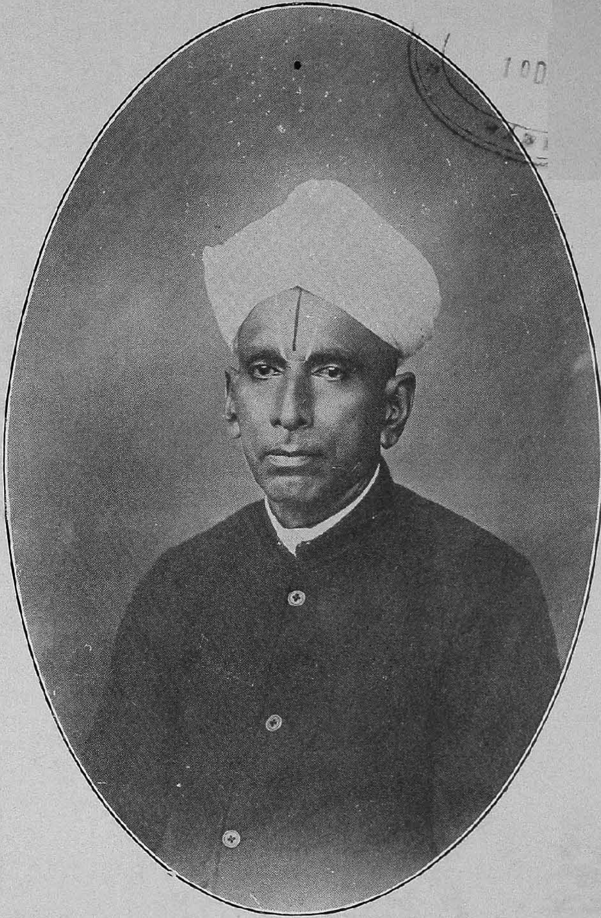
Reminiscences

In extending to me the privilege of sending my 'reminiscences relating to the Kumbakonam College', the Souvenir Editorial Committee have tacitly given me the concession of saying whatever I choose, of rambling without cogency or logical connexion and of detailing anecdotes, however trivial they may be. They seem to recognise that the advance of age entitles one to write loosely without being checked or questioned. I thank them for this generous concession and will avail myself fully of it.

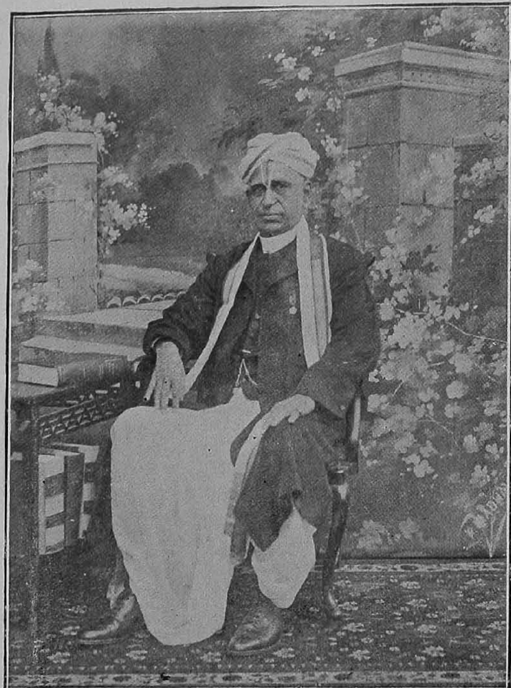
I had heard of the greatness of the Kumbakonam College as early as 1893 when I was in the II Form of a High Schoo- in an adjacent town. My school-fellows and I heard with wondering attention that the students in Kumbakonam were playing with a ball which they kicked about for enjoyment. Games like football were then unknown to us; in fact, I showed complete ignorance of football when, in the old F. A. class, our Physiology lecturer tried to illustrate the structure of the eye by comparing it with a football with the bladder enclosed in it. Even in those benighted days, the Kumbakonam College was noted for its keen interest in Western games.

After passing the F. A. (now called Intermediate) examination, I appeared before Mr. Hensman, the then Principal of the Kumbakonam College, for admission to the B. A. class. I was not in a position to pay for my education and was told that a scholarship might be obtained if I could pay the College fees for the first two months and did well in an examination. In those days there was no such Old Boys' Association as now flourishes in the College giving a large number of scholarships to poor boys. As I could not afford to pay the initial fees, I had to seek admission elsewhere and thus like Sir Roger's ancestor in *The Spectator*, I "narrowly missed" being a student of this great College.

I remember distinctly the feelings of awe and admiration which the appearance of this College inspired in me when, for the first time, I saw the holy river flowing by and the



PROF. M. R. RAJAGOPALA IYENGAR



DEWAN BAHADUR N. KRISHNASWAMI IYENGAR



SRI T. SADASIVIER, B. A., M. L., 1865-1927
Chief Justice of Travancore, 1907-12
Judge of the High Court of Madras, 1912-21
President, Hindu Religious Endowments Board, 1923-27

venerable *peepul* and other trees which stood on the foreshore and in the avenue leading from the outer gate to the main building. Some five years after this, I came again in contact with this College. Kumbakonam was then, as now, a centre for University examinations and I came as an invigilator accompanying boys from Mannargudi which was not a centre. As I was crossing the river in a boat to enter the College, I was struck by the sight of two or three lecturers of the College walking along the verandah. They wore academic gowns and turbans and had, it seemed to me, an air of dignity and scholarly serenity. Gowns used to be worn by lecturers during College hours until a few years ago. It is interesting to observe the change that has come over manners and fashions in the course of some twenty years. Occasionally, I see lecturers of today walking along the corridors of the College without turbans or even coats and with just a shirt and a *dhoti* going round below the waist. This laxity in dress would, in those days, be considered a very serious breach of decorum.

In 1920 I was posted to Kumbakonam College as Additional Lecturer in English and took up my appointment with a certain amount of trepidation. The English classes were then large and the Senior Intermediate class, having a strength of over a hundred and fifty, presented a formidable appearance to every new lecturer. If he failed to satisfy their expectations, he ran the risk of being 'booed' at or hearing cat-calls and of finding the place hotter than he would desire. I soon got accustomed to the ways of the new institution and felt quite happy as the days passed by.

In the twenties of the century, three *pucca*, full dress plays used to be enacted in the last term of the year: one in English, usually a play of Shakespeare's, one in Sanskrit, usually one of Kalidasa's plays and one in Tamil with plenty of songs. In fact the last term of the year used to be called 'the Drama Term', the second term being the 'Sports Term'. For over a month the rehearsals for the plays went on continuously in the evenings.

When the College was under the stewardship of Mr. R. M. Statham, several noteworthy achievements came to be

recorded. Mr. Statham had a 'flair' for making friends and for moving on equal terms with Indians. Those were days when Englishmen who were heads of institutions or offices kept Indians at a respectful distance, so that the line which, they thought, should divide the rulers and the ruled might not fade out. Mr. Statham's appeal for an Old Boys' Association met with an enthusiastic response. In a year or two, the number of members rose to a considerable figure and the subscriptions collected from them enabled the Association to give quite a large number of scholarships to poor and deserving students.

The annual gatherings of the Old Boys' Association were impressive and inspiring. I remember one of these gatherings over which the late K. Ramanujachariar, an Old Boy and former Principal of Pachaiyappa's College, presided. Some two hundred members, many of them old men of over sixty, attended. Some had come from Mayavaram, Tanjore and even more distant places as on a pilgrimage. The President delivered a very eloquent address lasting for an hour and kept the audience spell-bound and reverent. The meeting was held under an old banyan tree at the entrance to the playground. There were no decorations, no flags, no buntings, no coloured electric lamps; but the glowing faces of the old students and the venerable pose and dignified manner of the President still remain vivid in my memory.

Mr. Statham and Mr. P. Rajagopala Ayyar, who followed him as Principal, took a very enthusiastic interest in games and athletics. It was by their joint efforts that the College Canoe Club came into existence, a club the like of which was then to be seen only at Rajahmundry and, at present, in Annamalainagar also. It is not easy to write reminiscences without introducing the egotistic 'I'. I may, therefore, be excused for saying that in 1930 or so, I became a member of the Canoe Club and used to row regularly after College work for a furlong against the current of the Cauveri. This was a most pleasant and vigorous exercise and I believe it has given me a new lease of life. According to an astrological prediction, I should have died in 1946. What keeps me still going strong is, doubtless, my former membership of the boat club and those students and lecturers who do

not look upon old age as a curse would do well to take to this refreshing pastime in much larger numbers.

Occasionally the College had the honour of being visited by the Governors of Madras. One of these was gracious enough (in 1921 or 1922, I forget the date) to meet the lecturers and students in one of the College halls. Mr. T. K. Hanumantha Rao, who was then Vice-Principal, welcomed His Excellency in a short extempore speech. In the course of it he referred to one or two of the urgent requirements of the College and requested their favourable consideration by the Governor. To us who heard the speech, there was nothing irrelevant or objectionable in it. But we saw the Private Secretary walking in and out of the hall apparently uneasy and fretting and fuming at the remarks, a gist of which had not been previously communicated to His Excellency. This looks like an instance of the distant, unapproachable and exclusive attitude of the old English administrators and officials.

It was this Governor of Madras (or was it some other?) who said about the College playground that it was the finest lawn he had ever seen outside Oxford and Cambridge.

I have very pleasant memories of the lunch interval during the years 1920-23. Some six or seven of the Lecturers and Assistant Lecturers, among whom Mr. K. S. Patrachariar, the late T. K. Hanumantha Rao and the late L. A. Ganapathi Ayyar were seniors, had, what might be called, a 'communal lunch.' Each brought his own tiffin, of course, but there was a distribution of every dish among all the party. It was not, however, the dishes that made the time pleasant, but the laughter and merriment, the quips and cranks, the jokes in which even senior members took part, throwing overboard all formal restraints. It may be asked why only six or seven members of the staff met at lunch. In those days the staff numbered only twenty or so and some of them went home for their tiffin, their houses being very near the College.

The present Centenary Celebrations remind me of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in 1931. Dr. S. R. U. Savoor, who later became the Director of Public Instruction, was then Principal.

He was very keen in furthering the advancement of the College in all possible ways and organized the Diamond Jubilee with the main object of placing the College prominently before the public of the Madras Presidency. During his Principalship he made earnest and enthusiastic attempts to start Honours courses in the College in at least one or two subjects that do not require expensive laboratories. He wrote strongly to the Government to restore Philosophy as a subject of study in the B. A. classes. He pointed out that in Kumbakonam where the great philosopher, Sri Sankaracharya, had founded a Mutt, it was an anomaly that the study of Philosophy should have been discontinued in the College. But the times were not favourable. Financial stringency stood in the way of the Government accepting his proposals. There were even distant and ominous rumours that Kumbakonam College might be closed, but happily for succeeding generations of students, the danger was averted.

Before I conclude, I may be permitted to mention the names of two senior lecturers in English who died a premature death—Messrs. K. S. Vaidyanatha Ayyar and D. A. Narasimham Pantulu. Besides being good scholars in English they had both a great love for Sanskrit Literature. As Lecturers they were both impressive and highly esteemed. They set before themselves a very high standard of efficiency and never, in the least, deviated from it. It was a pleasure to serve under them and with them and I take this opportunity of paying my tribute to their memory.

M. R. Rajagopalan

Reminiscences

Kumbakonam in my mind had been associated with blind orthodoxy, but I found the people and the place quite congenial to me and I recollect with great satisfaction the pleasant years which I spent there as Principal of the venerable Government College, Kumbakonam. I shared a house with one of the orthodox gentlemen and I found myself welcome everywhere.

The College had an active Old Boys' Association which collected funds to help poor boys to get higher education. I found a well-managed hostel, the students interested in many extra College activities like rowing and sports. There was great rush for admissions and owing to the keenness of the Old Boys we very soon obtained sanction to increase the admissions. There was demand for opening new courses and affiliation in subjects like Botany was also possible before long. I found that the College had started admitting a few women students and I helped to provide a good sitting room and other facilities for them so that more of them may join for higher education. Without this facility very few of them would have got the opportunity as there were no colleges for women in the neighbourhood.

The atmosphere was so congenial and the people so responsive that I found no difficulty in carrying out many improvements in the College. Besides the increase in admissions and opening of new courses, the College was given a platoon in the U. O. T. C. Through the munificence of a local gentleman, a foot-bridge connecting the town and the College soon came into existence to replace the old ferry.

I recollect with pleasant memories all the associations I had with the famous town and College and am thankful to have had the opportunity to serve the College. I pray that the College may continue to grow in all directions and be a source of joy and inspiration particularly to the people of Kumbakonam and surrounding areas.

Dr. K. C. Chakko

The Early Twenties

No fool ever wrote except for money, said Dr. Johnson. But reminiscences can be written without remuneration. They bring a secret delight to the writer. They gratify his vanity. So unremunerated I write and unrewarded the reader may have to read.

My first years of service in the Education department were in the Government College, Kumbakonam. The century was in the early twenties and so was I. I have always looked upon these years as a fortunate beginning, for at that time there were several on the College staff whom age and experience had mellowed. It was something of an education to have listened to their odd memories, or laughed at their spicy anecdotes, or heeded (or perchance scorned!) their mild warnings and counsels. The graceful art of social deference was inculcated almost unconsciously. I have observed the lack of that grace in institutions where there is an absence of this leavening of youth with age. I was the youngest of the colts. I had my first lessons in biting the bit (unaccompanied, thank God, by biting the dust!) and in having the reins thrown to you too. I had my share of gentle raps on the knuckles—if raps on the knuckles could ever be gentle. I had my cupful of praise and encouragement, and my meed of sympathy over departmental reverses.

Statham was my first Principal. Those were his salad days. He blazed like a comet in the educational world, until higher office and responsibility cooled him down into a respectable planet in its orbit. His notions of a code and an ethos pertaining to college life were far removed from the staid conceptions then prevalent.

I recall the fun we had when the effigy of Chaucer was burnt in the College campus in celebration of the victory in the University Senate over the resolution to abolish Chaucer in the B. A. curriculam.

My next Principal was P. Rajagopala Iyer. His tall gaunt frame, slowly striding the verandah, sometimes doubly

armed with umbrella and walking stick, cannot be easily forgotten. He used to come to the College in an old dog-cart-like contrivance which, like him, was a relic of better times. The title of Rao Sahib conferred on him was another confirmtion of the end of useful days.

There was another Rao Sahib in the College. That was T. K. Hanumantha Rao of the Chemistry department. I believe the two Rao Sahibs hang together in some College Hall. T. K. H.'s second love was Co-operation. He used to come to College in a bullock cart, which sometimes took us to some neighbouring village, where he spoke of the charms of his new-found lady. He held forth with rare felicity on the subject of co-operation, political economy, and even the shifts and changes of exchange and currency, all in the homeliest Tamil. He had an extensive library of books on these subjects. It was in his library that I first confronted the Rochdale pioneers. He had a jealous care of his books and never lent them to anyone. When he relaxed his rule in my favour, friends wondered what charms and spells worked the change. And in the first book I opened, what a feast of marginal lines and underlinings!—all in red and green ink, doubtless done with ruler and blotter, for there was neither blot nor even a stray streak of a line! How true that was of his life too, neither blot nor blotch! I recall with sad remorse how we used to listen, with the mild amusement of well-bred improvidence, to his economic planning of his life in retirement when his income would have been halved! His services to the cause of co-operation have been commemorated in the halls of the T. U. C. S. as one of its founders, and they do not need my feeble pen. I used to see him sometimes in his retirement in his old home in Big Street, Triplicane. To my delight he still preserved his habit as he talked to you, of massaging his shirt or coat, as the case may be, where his navel was—a symbol truly of a quiet and deep satisfaction over a life usefully spent.

My memories of Patrachariar—happily with us still—a fine specimen of the versatility that was a feature of the Collegians of those times—and of his lively anecdotes are still green. My most vivid image of him is his tiny frame, sending long

chopped strokes to the baseline, all the while reciting a few hymns from the Vedas or improvising *swaras* for some Carnatic melody, or elucidating a phrase in Sanskrit for old K. R. Doraiswami Iyer who, having cultivated a late amour for Sanskrit at the age of superannuation, flaunted his mistress at the Tennis court.

Speaking of Sanskrit, I must pay my debt of gratitude to the venerable R. V. Krishnamachariar, who taught me the three dramas of Kalidasa. Though myself on the staff, I could find time to attend his classes along with my own B. A. students. He suspended the teaching of a scene if for any reason I could not be present—a partiality the like of which only gods in fables show to their favourites. His exposition of Kalidasa was more enjoyable than that of Shakespeare in the halls of colleges. One of the richest rewards of that time was the acting of Sakuntala in Sanskrit, in which the revered scholar was persuaded to act Kanva's part.

The period had its own comic trouble-makers. T. B. K. broke upon the scene with pounding energy and was the author of not a few *contretemps*. There was another, who shall go unnamed, who wouldn't speak to me for months, because he thought that I was somehow responsible, one luckless day, for his mortification at the Common Room table. It happened this way. I was perusing a magazine article on intelligence tests which were then coming into vogue. I was chuckling to myself when the gentleman aforesaid jocularly demanded, "What are you enjoying all by yourself? Let us share the joke." I had a vague premonition of calamity. I bleated something and tried to laugh it off. But he was insistent. "Intelligence Tests! It is all a fraud. Let us have one of his samples," he said. Reluctantly but with a clear sense of the coming catastrophe I read the following:

"Captain Cook made three voyages, and he died in one of those voyages. In which voyage did he die?"

"Look at that stupid question," commented my friend triumphantly. "How can that be a test of intelligence? How can anyone answer the question without knowing the life of Cook?"

The rest of the table burst into such loud laughter that he concluded that I had played some mischief and he counted me among his foes for a time.

One memory of my Kumbakonam College days is probably worth recording more than others. I had the pleasure of starting a sort of Writers' Club of about a dozen students. We pledged ourselves to write something original in prose or verse, in English or Tamil, and regale one another with our lucubrations every week. K. P. Rajagopalan, now well-known in the Tamil literary world as 'Koopa', was the most prolific member of the Club. He was a shy little fellow, with a sweet smile, but he had secret reserves of deep passion. When we met years afterwards in his house in Triplicane, he was struggling in a journalist's den, I believe; but he had fulfilled his early aspirations in his short stories. I have no doubt that poverty was the major cause of his premature death.

Another of that crew was N. Pichaimurthy, who is leaning on a crutch which the Hindu Religious Endowments Board have fashioned for him somewhere, and is still persevering in the struggle to make literature the staff of life. He was more social, more combative than Rajagopal. There was more frenzy and more of the spirit of rebellion in him. Both these students of mine often egged me to write in Tamil, but the master has proved faithless to the disciples.

A third of that group was D. S. Raghavan who safely ensconced for years in the arms of "THE HINDU", has now retired. He recently came out with his Tamil version of *Sundara-kanda.* When he expounded to me recently some of his original interpretations, I could still discover the old fires smouldering in him. At 58 he hopes to live laborious days in quest of the author's paradise free from the bondage of teleprinter and lino.

If I desist from writing of others—others like Potharaju Narasimham, who was the 'compleat' philosopher, or M. R. Raja-gopala Ayyangar, who was the 'parfit' scholar and gentleman, it is because I should not take advantage of the handsome courtesy shown to me by the Centenary Souvenir Editorial Committee and eke out these memories to an inordinate length.

S. Narasimhan.

Memoirs of a Misfit

I ought to explain at the outset that I have no more right to parade among the distinguished *alumni* of Kumbakonam College than the goose among the royal swans. My stay in College was brief and inglorious, a bare nine months. Thence I departed, *sans* years or honours, to mourn by the green scum of Teppakulam, the chittering music of the Cauveri. Prof. K. S. Patrachariar, my old *guru*, who insisted on a contribution to this souvenir and would not take a denial, will, with his keen sense of humour, relish the situation and find in it an apt nemesis, when the nine-lustrum-old tale is told.

The Cambridge of South India, the home-town of Ramanujan, the scene of the historic triumphs of Porter, Gopala Rao and Hanumantha Rao, Kumbakonam, by a strange quirk of fate, bred also me, to whom symbols stubbornly refused to yield their meaning and Algebra to this day remains abracadabra. Misled by a certain facility in the third 'R' and lured on by the ambitions of the good folks at home I assumed that I had the native genius for Mathematics and opted for M. P. C. My *hubris* found its Philippi at the annual examinations. And the European Principal Mr. T. O. Hodges, as became an Exhibitioner of Balliol, decided that he had no use for lame dogs like me, though in the eyes of other and less intolerant fanciers we had our points.

I suppose there was no educational institution more ideally situated for its purpose or more attractive to dreamy youth than Kumbakonam College at the turn of the century. I lost my heart the very first day to the gracious dame who reclined so serenely on the riverside behind her facade of stately trees and the companionable flight of steps near which the College ferry boat was moored. (It was long before the days of Rajagopala Iyer and the pomps of the College regatta. Our young heroes were swimmers, not rowers.) Across the river was the bustling busyness of the courts and of a self-important little town. Here all was peace.

Sitting near the window in the circular English Hall, I have often listened abstractedly to the rolling periods of Mr. D. S. Sarma, most kind-hearted of disciplinarians, as my eyes strayed ever and anon to the water below, flowing so smoothly, so unrestingly. This habit of mooning was anything but serviceable in the mathematics classes. Prof. Patrachariar, brilliant and versatile, expounding the arcana of trigonometry with quick bird-like movements and a clarity which was only equalled by the rapidity of expression, demanded all the concentration that one was capable of. His colleague Mr. T. K. Venkatarama Iyer, equally well-dressed and neat in performance, was less of a hustler. But, though I knew him as a neighbour, there was a suggestion of aloofness behind his debonaire exterior which repressed familiarity. All these respected teachers are happily still with us.

We were more at ease with Mr. T. K. Hanumantha Rao who, a chemist by vocation, had made history as a co-operator and whose broad humanity and common sense were constantly breaking in upon us in quips and jests and homely sayings. Mr. Arulanandam, whose quiet presence and unhurried speech impressed one by its very contrast with the restlessness of Kinglake's genius, whose *Eothen* he read with us, and that great gentleman and infectious enthusiast, Satagopa Ramanujachariar, whose premature death was a grievous loss to Tamil scholarship, are the other figures who loom before the mind's eye through the mists of half a century.

The College had as great a name for prowess in sports as for learning in those days. We had a crack football team; the deadly certainty with which "corner kick Viswam" shot the ball into the net had become proverbial. The Griggs memorial sports were held in the College grounds and Sambandam, our champion sprinter, enjoyed a more enviable reputation with us than even Nurmi did in the days of his prime. Tennis was an aristocratic game which the masters affected mostly. We plebs, who had neither the brawn for weight-lifting nor the nimbleness for Fives, were content with badminton. But it was no mincing lady's game with us, though at Kumbakonam it never attained the science and the rigour with which St. Joseph's was to invest it during my two years' sojourn there.

My own participation in the sports activities was confined mostly to the contribution of lung power, deliriously cheering our side, unscrupulously shouting the "enemy" down. My attempts at wielding the badminton bat provoked derision. My pertinacity made up in some measure for my lack of skill, however, and I attained in course of time to the dignity of right Forward in the B team—though my long-suffering partners were canny enough to ask me to stand down when it came to a trial match.

But there were ample compensations. When I was not holding the bat like a bandmaster's baton I loved to dawdle on the banks of our little pond, hidden from view as one entered the main gate on the north by the rushes with their tall feathery fronds that clustered round it. It may have been a fertile source of malaria, but there were occasionally lilies in it. And the hardy offspring of 'marker' Arokiam—as great an institution in his own way as the legendary Principals and potentates—were constantly diving in with every appearance of enjoyment to recover strayed balls.

An even more welcome haven of refuge was the Library, spacious, well-appointed, with beautiful cabinets over which reclined the portraits of poets, dramatists and novelists. The librarian was a good old soul who had very little of the characteristic Kumbakonam flair for badinage. I recollect his approving smile as he allowed me to clamber up the ladder to the top shelves where Carlyle and Froude, Hazlitt and De Quincey reposed, most of their pages uncut. A whole new world of golden dreams opened for me. I read omnivorously and indiscriminately, often comprehending but a fraction of what I read. But here I learnt for the first time to recognize that sudden uplifting of the heart which great literature brings. And so the vision of the lovely College on the Cauveri still holds me captive, stern step-mother though she was to me. She has grown, prospered and has even had a face-lift—things against which old fogeys like me are apt to grouse. Some of the mellow leisureliness and amenity has inevitably been lost. But the Cauveri is still there to renew her and so are the high hearts of buoyant youth. May she inspire generations to come with hope and faith for the endless adventure of life.

N. Raghunathan

Reminiscences of my College Days

The most fortunate factor of my educational career, looking back at this great distance of time, was the very great capacity of several of my class-mates. To mention only a few, there was the late Mr. V. K. Aravamudha Iyengar, who was unfortunately cut off in the prime of life and was even then at the height of his glory. Had he been spared till the normal span of life, he would have secured for himself a very glorious place in the official hierarchy.

Another colleague was the late Mr. Justice S. Panchapagesa Sastri, whose unfortunate death took place recently in Bombay and within a stone's throw of the very place I live in. The opportunities I had of close contact with him for nearly two years at his mature age revealed those aspects of his high character and capacity which were only imperfectly grasped in my teens.

The one to whose company I stuck during all the years of my college career is Mr. N. Govindaraja Iyengar, retired Chief Engineer of Madras State and at present, Member of the Union Public Service Commission. It is no exaggeration to say that his high principles have very largely influenced me. After a break of several years this process has again commenced for I see him at least once a month since business takes me very often to Delhi.

During the entire period of my college career except for a few months towards the end, we had as Principal a young Englishman from Oxford, just out of college. His lectures were arranged during the first hour after tiffin and since we could not follow his pronunciation at all, there was a great scramble for occupying the first two benches. For this purpose several of us used to even forgo our tiffin. One of the bolder boys once got up in the middle of his lecture and told him that we did not follow even a single syllable of what he was talking. His observation was that he found this to be a general complaint amongst the stu-

dents of the First and Second year classes, but that he could not help it. Once he took the entire lecturing time of 30 minutes to explain to us leeward and windward sides. Things took a worse shape when we came to the Second Year when he was to lecture on Edmund Gosse's *Sir Walter Raleigh*. Several classes were missed and we almost came to November with barely one month for the Examination. Yet we had made no headway. He gave us the last lecture, which comprised the entire book, touching upon some points on this page and that and left the rest to be read by ourselves. Fortunately for us there were questions in the University Examination bearing on these pages.

This Principal left us a few months before my college career ended and we had another European in his place. He used to be very punctual and took enormous pains in teaching us and that was a happy augury for our batch, for Shakespeare was left entirely to him.

Being one interested in Mathematics, I was particularly attracted by the brilliant manner in which Messrs. K. S. Patrachariar and T. K. Venkatarama Iyer handled their subjects. Mr. Patrachariar would draw a complicated geometrical diagram on the black-board, sit with his back towards the board and give the names of triangles and polygons as if he was facing the board. The respect in which we held him was so high that even in the B. A. classes he would make some students, who went to sleep under the influence of the cool breeze from the Cauveri, stand up and he was obeyed without any demur. He was no teacher for the mediocre. One had to be ahead of the class to enjoy his lectures. Our batch did not have the good fortune of having Mr. Patrachariar as our Professor of Mathematics for all the two years in B. A. class. I remember we had to give him a send off with a heavy heart even in my Junior B. A. class.

Mr. T. K. Venkatarama Iyer had the greatest reputation of giving the best treatment to students. I remember very vividly, in one of my B. A. classes, a gentleman of high status in the town abruptly entered our class for fixing up some sports events and all of us stood up. Mr. Venkatarama Iyer

asked us to sit down, took the gentleman out and after a few minutes' talk outside he returned and we could see that he was immensely dissatisfied with the abrupt entry of the gentleman into the class-room and mildly admonished us that we need not have stood up.

Our Grecian History Professor was Mr. S. Venkateswara Iyer and he thrilled us by his vivid description of the ancient civilization of Greece, particularly about the conception of the City States. His talk used to be of the rhythmic type and he stamped the platform appropriately. The Lecturer who handled Roman History in the Second Year was a gentleman of great capacity. Yet he had the mannerism of interpolating the word 'yes' very often in his talk and one of my classmates counted that in the course of one lecture he put in something like 300'yes'es.

We have also been particularly fortunate in our Indian English Professors. We had Mr. K. Natesa Iyer with great erudition and biblical in his language. He was with us for at least three out of the four years of my college career and similarly Mr. D. S. Sarma who created in us an extremely indelible impression of his great capacity. His delineation of character of personae in novels prescribed as texts was very piercing and extremely original. Most of our Professors of the Kumbakonam College were such as we could hold them as our ideal to follow in life both as regards capacity and character.

The four years of college course appeared to pass off as it were in four months. In my younger days I used to consider that the description of college days as the happiest days of one's life as a sort of exaggeration. Looking back on those years, in spite of the blurring to the imagination caused by the large span of years between then and now, there is enormous truth in that saying and when I left college I did so with a heavy heart, for I very much wished that there was provision in the Kumbakonam College of those days for the of M. A. course to which I turned my attention after leaving that College.

L. S. Vaidyanathan, M. A., F. I. A., F. S. S., J. P.,
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Reminiscences

As one of the oldest living Old Boys of the Kumbakonam College, I set down a few reminiscences that occur to my memory at this distance of time in response to the invitation extended to me by the Principal and the Secretaries of the Centenary Celebrations Committee.

My association with this College extends over half a century and from then up to now I have been intimately acquainted with the progress of the College. When I joined the College, Mr. Bilderbeck had retired and Mr. Stone was the Principal. Mr. and Mrs. Stone did a great deal for the advancement of the College in several respects. Mr. Stone who was born in Stafford-on-Avon, the birth-place of Shakespeare, organized with the help of Mrs. Stone the staging of Shakespearean dramas, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Merchant of Venice.* I mention this specially because the performances were such a splendid success that the leading educationists both in Government and private service in the Presidency came to witness the two special performances which were largely attended and admired. It was an advertisement, as it were, of the greatness of this College. I took part in both the performances as Hypolita in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and as the Duke in *The Merchant of Venice.*

Mr. Stone also introduced new games like Football and Cricket. Everyday there was a mass drill framed after the military drill under his own supervision and that of the Professors, and I was the Captain of the drill section for two years. I was also a good athlete getting first prize in Long Jump, High Jump, Throwing the Cricket ball, and sundry other things. I was also a good swimmer and with College friends I used to swim in the river even during the high flood. I was a good Tennis player in the College and I defeated Mr. A. A. Hall, who happened to come here as Principal of the College and was Champion in the Tennis Tournaments at Madras, in three straight sets. The strength then was at the highest, about 300. My optional subject was Mathematics in which I

was specially trained by Mr. K. R. Srinivasa Iyengar and my rivals were Mr. T. R. Venkatarama Sastri and one Mr. Ganapathisubramaniam. I passed subsequently high in the Second Class and Mr. T. R. Venkatrama Sastri who also took a high place was one of my best and life-long friends. Mr. K. R. Srinivasa Iyengar, who competed for the Mysore Civil Service, took the first place and was appointed Assistant Commissioner. He is now a retired member of the Mysore State Council.

It must be remembered that Girls' education was not much in favour those days. For instance, when I was the Secretary of the Town High School, a school having the largest number of students, only one girl student related to me, was studying in it. Nor was there a single girl student in the College when I joined it. With the advancement of the people both in cultural and in social spheres the College now offers a pleasing contrast.

During my practice at the Bar I had the good fortune to have intimate contact with three Principals of the College who took much interest in improving it, viz., Mr. Hodges, Mr. Yates and Sir R. M. Statham, who all resided in my bungalow while they were Principals and two of them afterwards became Directors of Public Instruction. I had many consultations with them for the improvement of the College in various directions. After retirement from practice I am residing in my bungalow far from the bustle of the town, but I continue to be a subscriber to the College Library, one of the best libraries which I have known and of which I am making ample use. At the request of Mr. D. Namasivayam, the then Principal, I had the honour to preside over the College Day celebrations in 1949. All these embolden me to claim a life-long interest in and association with my beloved College.

I wish to convey my hearty thanks to the Principal of the College and I dare say that the present students of this College under his training will acquit themselves well during this commemoration. As an aged man I convey my blessings to them all.

C. R. Lakshmivaraha Iyengar

My Reminiscences

Those were days when the lecturers had the privilege of enjoying a certain amount of authority and control over the student population. The boys had respect for their masters and elders. The then Principal Mr. J. M. Hensman, who was a stern disciplinarian had just left the College on transfer, and his successors were of the old school exerting their influence in maintaining discipline, imparting knowledge sufficient to equip the students for their future career. Messrs. H. S. Duncan, Nagoji Rao and Sathianathan were the Principals who succeeded one after another and the last of the Principals during the course of my study was Mr. T. O. Hodges. I understand that he was a direct recruit new to his office but he was very good at teaching Shakespeare, Browning etc. He used to quote from Latin and Greek authors in his notes; his handwriting was neat. He introduced certain salutary reforms in the maintenance and arrangement of the library. The other lecturers were brilliant men who in their own subjects were atmost specialists. They took a keen interest in seeing that the students studied well and came out successful in life.

Freed from the fetters of the strenuous study and control in the High Schools, the boys—there was then no co-education—felt a freer atmosphere in the College on account not only of the location of the College but of the kindlier treatment by the lecturers; standing on the bench and kissing of the cane had not intruded into colleges.

To name a few of the lecturers of the period, we had Mr. Sivakumara Sastrigal, brother of the famous flutist Saraba Sastrigal, whose music used to enthral the audience. Mr. Sivakumara Sastrigal would be requisitioned for all occasions to make extempore speeches. To us he was something of the type of the Rt. Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastrigal in the matter of pronunciation and expression. He used to insist on the boys using simple words in composition and writing out simple sentences but when he wrote or spoke he indulged in long-winding sentences. Even now I remember when he was

asked to speak about the Warden of the Hostel how well he spoke to the admiration of the audience. To quote a sentence from his speech which still rings in my ears, "Not far from the bustle of the busy town with green fields in front of you and a gentle stream scattering plenty over a smiling land, Mr. Warden , your position is rather enviable." That was the English Professor of the College. There was a Muslim Lecturer Mr. Muhamad Azam who used to come to the College in a rickshaw. He wore costly long coats and donned different kinds of caps and hats. He taught us English prose, *Life of Goldsmith* by William Black. His classes were lively. Notwithstanding his liberal views on several matters he was a bit touchy where his clan was concerned. In a running-race in the College sports, a Muslim boy, who was one of the competitors, lagged behind, not completing the course. Mr. Muhamad Azam who was witnessing the event had an easy excuse for the Muslim boy by remarking that in a great fight all others would "run away" but Muslims would stand firm!

The famous Professor K. Sundararama Iyer, Mr. K. R. Doraiswamy Iyer and a young gentleman Mr. V. S. Venkateswara Iyer were the History lecturers. Mr. T. O. Hodges, Principal of the College, had so much respect for Prof. K. Sundararama Iyer that when he, for the first time, visited the classes to see how the lecturers were doing their respective classes, he sat along with the students and listened to his lecture as one sitting at the feet of his Master. Once in a week an hour would be allotted for questions. Boys would try to avoid questions by trying to divert the Professor in some controversial subjects, particularly in theosophy which would provoke the Professor to indulge in strong criticisms against the theosophical society and Mr. Annie Besant and thus the question time would be over without questions! He had locked up a good amount of his earnings in Arbuthnot Bank which crashed and brought about the ruin of several families; the Professor's entire savings were lost. One would have expected him to lose his balance of mind. But after a few hours of calm thinking he appeared before his students in his usual tussore long coat and expressed with an amazing equanimity of mind that by the loss he had only to abandon some schemes which he intended to carry out with his savings. He did not feel perturbed

but went on as usual with his college work. Mr. S. V. Venkateswara Iyer was the youngest of the group; he took great pains to collect information from various sources and dictated notes on History subjects. He was an amiable young man loved by students.

Mr. K. R. Doraiswamy Iyer who also engaged us in History used to give lectures and dictate notes. His lectures were better remembered on account of his mannerisms. His prefixes and suffixes of "Yes, yes," "No, no," like the double engines on a *Hill Railway* would raise hilarity among students. He was also our tutor before whom we had to lay our grievances. Most of us had no complaints to make, but two boys of a rigorous orthodox family represented to him that when they were taking tiffin during the luncheon hour standing in the pond knee-deep in water some fellows were driving buffaloes into the pond. The tutor flew into a fury and burst out in a rage, "Do you want me to drive out the buffaloes while you are taking tiffin? You use the milk and curd and you want the dung to smear your house with, but the buffalo should not enter the pond, I must drive away the buffalo! I am not paid for this." It raised a laughter amidst us but the aggrieved boys were in tears. This Mr. K. R. Doraiswami Iyer is the father-in-law of the famous Mr. R. Narayana Iyer, I. C. S., District Judge (retired).

Mr. K. V. Subbiar, English Lecturer with his diamond ear-rings, pith turban and smiling face was a fine lecturer, who used to talk fluently. He was much liked by students. Mr. K. S. Patrachariar, was then a mathematics lecturer. His method of teaching was superb and very impressive. Boys loved him much both for his teaching and for his interest in them. He evinced great interest in music and is now considered as an authority. Though born in an orthodox Hindu family and strict in the observance of religious dogmas he has very broad and cosmopolitan views on all matters.

Of the several games that had attracted the students, football stood out prominent. There were frequent tournaments and some of the best players who brought victory to the College are *still alive* and *they* can look back with pleasant memories on their exploits. In Tennis which



K. S. VAIDYANATHA IYER



PROF. L. A. GANAPATHI IYER



Dr. U. V. Swaminatha Iyer



M. V. Ramanujachariar

was equally popular, both masters and students mixed and played as partners or opponents. It developed a spirit of equality and fraternity between the teacher and the taught.

When the Cauvery was in floods boys had to use the rope-boat to and fro, which gave opportunity for some of them to tow the boat themselves to their delight. Hotel-going was then rare; boys brought their own tiffin in tiffin boxes or in small cloth parcels. The tiffin boxes were placed in the pigeon holes in the wooden racks and some boys used to make jokes by altering the positions of the tiffin boxes. The dress regulation then was that boys should wear coats and caps.

Of the beautiful buildings of our College situated as they are on the bank of the Cauvery with its towers above and a lovely grove all around we used to feel proud as comparable to the Eaton College on the Thames. Now with the additional structures, its beauty is enhanced and its value gets increased considerably, as it affords ample facilities for the present and future generations for higher and more useful education.

With pardonable pride, students of my generation can claim acquaintance, if not friendship, with the famous S. Ramanujan, F. R. S.

Old times have changed, new ideas have sprung up. The angle of vision is now different. It is but proper that with the march of times boys and girls now entering the portals of the College have to adapt themselves to the improved ideas of education and equipment. It gives us the old students of the College great pleasure to see it celebrating its Centenary under good auspices and we pray to God to crown it with eternal glory.

R. Kandaswamy Moopanar, B. A., B. L.

My Reminiscences of the College

I have been connected with the Kumbakonam College, in one capacity or other, for nearly forty-five years now; and I should like to say at the outset that I have nothing but the pleasantest of relations with this great seat of learning.

My first acquaintance with the College began in December 1909, when I had to come here for answering my Matriculation Examination. I had a feeling of awe and reverence towards the venerable old structure, but thank God, I was not over-awed by it.

Passing the Matriculation Examination high in the second class (there were then three classes, First, Second and Third), I became a student of the Junior Intermediate Class in January 1910. The Principal of the College was Mr. T. O. Hodges, an Oxonian. I could not at all follow his talk because he spoke in a low voice and his pronunciation was strange to me. So, I had to say, "Beg your pardon" twice or thrice, so that he might repeat his question till I could understand it and give a proper reply.

Among my Professors, mention may be made of Mr. Sankara Rao (the son of Rai Bahadur T. Gopala Rao) for Mathematics, Mr. A. Arulanandam for English, Mr. K. C. Subrahmanya Iyer for Physics and Mr. T. K. Hanumantha Rao, for Chemistry. Mr. Satagoparamanujachariar was the Tamil Pandit. They were all profound scholars and rose to high eminence later on. I was especially surprised to note that Prof. Sankara Rao used to read books on higher Mathematics just as we used to read novels. Further, they were all ideal teachers, who came into intimate contact with their pupils. Nor was this a difficult task, for we were only five or six students in the MPC group, as it was then considered a very difficult 'optional'. In the History and Logic section they were seven or eight times our number.

After Mr. Hodges had left, Mr. J. A. Yates became Principal; and he taught us Milton's *Paradise Lost*. He used

to do fifty lines per hour, which was too rapid a rate for us!

My stay in the College was very pleasant; and among my College-mates, special mention may be made of Sri V. Rajaraman, a product of the Native High School, who has till recently been Advocate-General of Hyderabad.

It was the *transition* period, the Examinations being shifted from December to March-April. So my Junior Intermediate was sixteen months long; this was a grievance in one way, but it helped to lay very strongly the foundations of our knowledge. And that was a great compensation.

I appeared for the Intermediate Examination in March 1912 and came out Second in the Presidency. Having got the first mark in English it was easy for me to get a seat in the English Honours Class in the Presidency College, Madras. Further I was awarded by the Madras University the Raja Sir T. Madhava Rao First Prize for standing first among the students of the Tanjore District.

My next period of stay in the College was from 1929 to 1936 when I was Assistant Lecturer in English. Dr. S. R. U. Savoor, Mr. Statham and Mr. A. Chakravarthi were then Principals of the College, and Mr. K. S. Patracharya and Mr. M. S. H. Thompson acted as Principals for short periods. Every one of them was kind to me; and my work was made very pleasant by the special love shown to me by Mr. D. A. Narasimhan and Mr. M. R. Rajagopala Iyengar who were successively the Heads of the English Department. I was made the Vice-President of the English Association and the College Union; I was also made Associate Editor of the College Magazine, in which capacity I wrote several articles for it.

I am grateful to Dr. Savoor and Mr. Chakravarthi for giving me the work of Tamil Translation for the Intermediate and B. A. Classes for, it was this training that enabled me to translate Carpenter's "Comparative Religion" (Home University Series) and thus win the Powell and Morehead Prize in the

Presidency College (1939-40) and Prof. Shand's Earthlore—"Geology without Jargon" for the Madras University (1952-54).

As there was a vacancy in the Presidency College, I was suddenly transferred there in July 1936; and I came back here in July 1945 — this time as a Lecturer in English. What a difference between 1936 and 1945! The atmosphere of the College had changed completely; where it was difficult to get 300 pupils for the whole College, there were more than 300 students in the Junior Intermediate Class alone!

In one of his essays, Addison says that Philosophy was brought down from the cloisters to the market place. Similarly, one may say here that higher education was brought down to the masses; so that, the problems were increasing classes, difficulties of accommodation, and, to some extent, the lowering of the respect due to teachers and preceptors. Dr. K. C. Chakko, Mr. Margasahayam Chettiar, Dr. Karamchand and Mr. D. Namasivayam were the four Principals during my four years' stay (1945-49). Though it is too early to speak of them individually, I must say it was my good fortune that they were all uniformly good to me. With the departure of Dr. Karamchand, one post in the Madras Educational Service was abolished; and so, I had the honour of becoming the Head of the English Department from January 1948. I had also the privilege of becoming the Editor of the College Magazine and Lecturer in charge of the Library.

It may not be out of place here to indicate my connection with the College Old Boys' Association. As soon as I came to know that such an Association was started, I became a Life-member by sending my subscription of Rs. 30/- though I was then in the American Collge, Madura, and I had little or no prospect of coming over here.

When I was Assistant Lecturer, I was made the Joint Secretary of the Old Boys' Association; and for some time after my retirement, I was elected its Secretary. For several decades, whether I was here or in Madura or Madras or Rajahmundry, I was a member of the Executive Committee of the Old Boys' Association. It was as Secretary of the

Association that I had to move intimately with Mr. A. Subramania Iyer, its President; and from him I learnt a great deal of the lessons of life. He was a realist to his finger-tips and his contact was very beneficial to me in many ways.

The situation of the College in the midst of the most romantic surroundings charmed me most of all. First it has been far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife. For a College of its size, the Library has been one of the best; and the hours and half-hours that I spent reading some book or making some references have been some of my most treasured possessions, which the passage of time could not steal away!

Even after retirement in April 1949 I am maintaining my contact with the College in every possible way.

As we are celebrating the College Centenary it is not enough to look back; we have to look forward also. What has the future hidden in its womb for this great institution? It is easy to say that we are marching to a future which is going to be brighter than the past. But a little thought will make us sober in our reflections. Speaking on the Centenary of the Presidency College, Mr. Papworth said, 'We have achieved something concrete, something worthwhile in the century that is past. What of the next century? Will our gains be strengthened and consolidated? or, shall we say that we should retrace our steps, having gone along the wrong path? It is more than we can say.' Our College too awakens the same sentiments. But whatever happens in the future, one thing is certain that our College has played a notable part in the dissemination of higher knowledge in South India; and that some—why, many of her sons—have played a noble part in moulding the political, economic and social life of the country. "We have not laboured in vain".

N. R. Kedari Rao

Reminiscences

As for my reminiscences, about the College, I don't remember at this distance of 65 years anything worth mention. I remember only one incident and that is, when Mr. James Moss was the Principal, somebody had in his absence written on the table at which he used to sit in the College, 'James Moss is a fool'. Immediately he saw this he flew into a rage and asked the class, "Who wrote this? Who wrote this?" Nobody was willing to admit that he had written it. Then he remarked, "Kumbakonam boys are wanting in gentibility." That is the only incident that I remember. I don't remember anything else and I do not think that even this is worth mentioning in the Souvenir.

Raja Bahadur S. Aravamudha Ayyangar, M. B. E.,
Hyderabad.

As my stay in the College at Kumbakonam was short, there is nothing worth recording as my experience except that then we had in the College a team of able Professors and Lecturers who took a great deal of personal interest in their pupils, and the pupils also had great regard and reverence for their teachers. Every one was animated by a pure desire to acquire knowledge and the *guru-sishya-bhavam* and attachment was very great.

Sri V. Rajarama Iyer,
Retired Advocate-General, Hyderabad.

கும்பகோணம் அரசினர் கல்லூரி நூறாண்டு மங்கலம்

அன்பின் உருவன் அருளின் திருவுருவன்
இன்பின் உருவன் இசையுருவன்—நன்பு
இனியும் குடந்தைநகர்க் கல்லூரி வாழ
நனியும் அருள்வன் நயந்து

கற்கும் கலைக்கெல்லாம் காணும் இறைவியாய்
நிற்கும் கலைமடந்தை நீளருளாற்—பொற்புமலி
கல்விவளர் தென்குடந்தைக் கல்லூரி நூறாண்டின்
செல்வியென வோங்கும் செழித்து.

தன்னையே சார்ந்து தழைக்கும் கலைபயில்வோர்க்
கன்னையே யாயினுமவ் வன்புமிகள்—என்னையே
மூப்புணராக் கன்னி முதல்வி யெனவறிஞர்
யாப்புணராச் சொல்வோர் இனிது.

பல்லா யிரமைந்தர் பண்டுமுத லின்றளவும்
நல்லா ளிவள் மடியில் நன்குகலை—யெல்லாம்
பயின்றுணர்ந்தா ராயினுமிப் பாவை யிளமை
பயின்று யர்வாள் நாளும் பயந்து.

நாரா யணனாய் நாளும் நடித்தருளும்
ஆரா வமுதன் அருள்கண்டால்—பேராளும்
கும்பவிறை சக்கரத்தான் கோதண்ட பாணியெனும்
நம்பரருள் கொண்டால் நயந்து.

பேறாண்டு வாழ்வு பெருகும் மகார் பொலிய
நூறாண்டு வாழ்ந்தகலை நோன்பினாள்—ஏறாண்ட
நீள்கொடியாள் மெய்யருளால் நின்று நிலவுவாள்
நீள்கொடிபோற் காய்கள் நிறைந்து.

ஆரியமாம் செல்வம் அருமைத் தமிழ்ச்செல்வம்
சீரியதாம் ஆங்கிலச் செல்வமொடு—நேரியலான்
ஓங்கி வளர வுயர்குடந்தைக் கல்லூரி
பாங்கி கலைமகட்குப் பண்பு.

திருமகளே மெய்க்கலையின் செல்வியே வெற்பின்
வருமகளே யென்னு மகளிர்—ஒருமகளே
காண்மின் எனவளரும் கல்லூரிப் பெண்மகளைப்
பூண்மின் உரிமை பொலிந்து.

குருகுலமென் றான்றோர் குறித்துப் புகழ்ப
வருகுலமென் றேனோர் மதிப்ப—ஒருகுலமாய்
எல்லாரும் சேர இயைகுடந்தைக் கல்லூரி
எல்லாரும் ஓங்கும் எழுந்து.

தஞ்சை யரசி தருமம் தழைக்கவென
விஞ்சு புகழின் விருப்பினால்—மஞ்சர்
மகளிரினம் கல்வி வளர வுதவும்
தகவுலகம் போற்றத் தகும்.

அரசியர் வேந்தர் அரண்மனையுள் வாழ்வர்
பரவிய பாணர் பசிக்கு—விரசிய
இல்பொருளை யீவர் செழிக்கும் கலைக்கோயில்
பல்கமனை யீந்ததுண்டோ பண்டு.

நிலைக்கோயில் ஆயிரம் நின்றதமிழ் நாட்டிற்
கலைக்கோயில் வாழும் கருத்தால்—தலைக்கோயில்
ஈதாக வீந்த விறைமையுள மாதரசி
மாதாலே யாகும் மகார்க்கு.

பொன்னி பெருகும் புதுமை புகழ்வதோ
தன்னி னிணையே தனக்கில்லாக்—கன்னி
பலகலையும் போற்றியுயர் பாவை யமைந்த
நிலநிலையே போற்றுமோ நெஞ்சு.

தருக்களின் பாங்கர்த் தலமே பழுத்த
உருக்களே பூண்டார் உவந்த—திருத்தலத்தில்
மேற்றிசையின் வந்த வியன்கலைகள் பாவிக்க
ஏற்றிசைவள் தாயாம் இவள்.

கலைமதியே போலக் கலைநிரம்பு சான்றோர்
குலபதியாம் நாமம் கொளவே — நலமதிகம்
வாய்ந்த கலைமைந்தராய் வந்தபல வாயிரர்க்குத்
தோய்ந்தகலை யீவார் துணிந்து.

நூறு குலபதியர் நோன்மை பணிச்சிறப்புப்
பேறு பிறவும் பெறு நிலையம் — வேறு பொருள்
வேண்டார் கலையே விழைவார் திருப்பணியாம்
ஆண்டா னருளி னமைப்பு.

காவிரியும் சூதக் கவினைப் புனைவேமோ
நாவிரியும் நூலை நயப்பேமோ—காவிரியின்
வெள்ளம் விரியும் வியப்பை வியப்பேமோ
வள்ளல் திருவருளின் வாய்ப்பு.

பழனமொரு பாங்கர்ப் பயில்வ வுளவோ
துழனியொரு நீர்பெருகுஞ் சூழல்—அழகுளவோ
வேற்று நகர் வாழும் வியன்கலா சாலைகளில்
ஆற்றலுளீர் சொன்மின் அறிந்து.

தன்னி னிணை யுண்டோ தாய்மொழிக்குத் தாயகமாம்
பொன்னி னிணையுண்டோ பூமியிடை—அன்னதே
கல்லூரி யாயிரமே கண்டாலும் தென்குடந்தைக்
கல்லூரிக் கில்லையிணை காண்.

காசிநகர் தக்கசிலை காஞ்சி நளாந்தைநகர்
மாசில்கலை வாழ்ந்த வகையுணர்வேம்—பேசுதிரோ
யாங்கே குடந்தைக் கிருக்கும் சிறப்பனைத்தும்
பாங்கே யமையும் பயின்று.

மருதத் திடையே வளர்புனற் பொன்னி
அருகர்ப் பெருக அமையும்—திருவைத்
தவம்புரிந்து யேனையவை சார்தல் இலவாம்
சிவம்புரிந்த செய்கைச் சிறப்பு.

இயற்கை யழகுக்கோ எல்லையே இல்லை
செயற்கை யழகும் சிறக்கும்—அயற்கையுள
நீணகரை நோக்கி நிலவுமே கல்லூரி
மாணவரை நோக்கி மலர்ந்து.

போற்றத் தகுந்த புகழ்பூண் கணக்காயர்
போற்றர் இருந்தார் புனைவித்தார்—ஏற்றமிகும்
கோபாலராவும் குலவினுர் ஈங்கன்றே
பூபாலர் பூணும் புகழ்.

ஆசிரியராக அமைந்தார் சிறப்பையெலாம்
மாசிரிய வாழ்ந்த மகாரறிவர்—பேசரிய
வாணிதனி வாழவந்த வாழ்க்கையினுர் வண்மையினை
வாணியன்றே யோதவவாள்.

தண்டமிழ்க்கே தம்மைத் தகுதியாகராசனுர்
வண்டமிழ்க்கே வாழ்வை வளர்த்தபுகழ்த்—தொண்டர்பிரான்
சாமிநாதையர் தமைப்பணிபூண் கல்லூரி
யாமிதே யென்போம் இசைந்து.

செய்வ தரிய செயலைச் சிறப்பாக
வைய மகிழ வகித்தோருள்—மெய்யே
தமிழ்க்குயிரைத் தந்த தவச்சாமி நாதர்
தமிழ்க்குரலே யோங்கும் தழைத்து.

ஆரியப் பாலாழி அன்பாற் கடைந்தமுதம்
சீரிய நாவாற் சிறப்புறவே—நேரிய
மாணவர்க் கீந்தார் மரபைப் புகழ்வதற்கும்
நாணயிலேன் தண்டமிழன் நான்.

அபிநவ பட்டன் அரும்புகழ்ப் பாணன்
அபிநவ வான்மிகனுர் ஆக—அபிநவ
வாக்கோ டிருந்த மலிபுகழ்ச் சிலரையும்
சேர்க்கோம் பணிகொள் சிறப்பு.

தண்டி யலங்கார சாரம் இயற்றினரும்
உண்டி உடையே உயிரெல்லாம்—பண்டிருந்த
ஆரியமே யென்ன அமைந்தவரும் ஈங்கியற்று
சீரிய நாவண்மை சிறப்பு.

மாபாரத மென்பர் வாய்மலியப் பேசுவரே
மாபா ரதம்பயில வாராரே—மாபா
ரதம் பயிலத் தண்டமிழால் நன்கமைத்த நல்லோன்
இதம்புகல வேண்டும் இனி.

செல்வ மிழந்து சிறுமை புகுந்தாலும்
ஒல்வதியற்றுவே னூழினெனக்—கல்விக்
களஞ்சியமாம் பாரதத்தைக் காத்த தமிழ்ச் சான்றோர்
உளஞ்சிறந்த திண்டன்றோ உண்டு.

ஆசிரியர் கீர்த்தி யமைதல் பெரிதேனும்
ஆசிரியர் சொற்ற அரும்பொருளை—மாசிரிய
நெஞ்சுளே சேர்க்கும் நிலையினுர் வாயாமை
விஞ்சுமோ கீர்த்தி மிகுந்து.

எத்துணையோர் கற்பித்தார் எத்துணையோர் கற்றுயர்ந்தார்
அத்துணையோர் சீரும் அளப்பரிதே—சுத்தமனம்
வாய்ந்த மகார்வளர வந்த புகழ்க் கல்லூரி
தோய்ந்த கலை வெள்ளச் சுவை.

உலகப் புகழும் ஒருநா வலவன்
நலனும் சிறப்பும் நயந்த—நிலைமையன்
சீனிவாச சாத்திரியாம் செல்வன் கலைபயின்ற
மானிவாச மீதன்றே மற்று.

சட்டக் கலையில் தமக்கிணையில் சான்றோராம்
சிட்டர் பலரிங்குச் சேர்ந்தவரே இட்டம்
இருப்பினும் அன்னோர் இயற்பெயரை யெல்லாம்
உரைக்கிலேன் நாவான் உவந்து.

தத்துவ நூல் தேர்ந்து தலைமை படைத்தாரும்
எத்துணையோர் என்ன இசைக்கிலேன்—சத்திமிகு
விஞ்ஞான மார்க்கம் விரித்தார் திறம்புகல
விஞ்ஞான மில்லேன் மிக.

நாமகிரி யன்னை நயந்த திருவருளால்
ஏமமுற மெய்ப்புகழை யெய்தினேன்—நாமம்
உலகுணரச் சின்னாள் உயிரோ டிருந்தான்
நலமுணர வேண்டும் நயந்து

கணக்கு நெறியிற் கணக்கற்ற சீர்த்தி
மணக்கு மிளமை மலிந்தான்—குணக்குன்(று)
இராமா நுசனும் இசையாளன் கல்வி
பராவா வுடைந்தனன்காண் பண்டு.

புலமை பொருந்திப் புகழும் பொருந்தித்
தலைமை தமைவந்து சாரும்—நிலைமை
அடையும் மகார்களா லன்றோ கலைத்தாய்
அடையும் பெருமை அடைந்து.

ஆடவரே கல்வி யடையலாம் என்றிருந்த
பாடவ வார்த்தை பறந்ததே—ஏடமையும்
கல்வியுரு வாகும் கலைமகளே யொப்பமிகும்
செல்வியரும் கண்டார் சிறப்பு.

செல்வியர் ஈண்டினர் தேடினர் ஓங்குகலைச்
செல்வியருள் என்றேயாம் செப்புவதோ—ஒல்வகையில்
ஆசிரிய ராகும் அமைதியும் ஈங்கடைந்தார்
தேசுரிய ராகச் சிறந்து.

பைந்தமிழ் மாதர் பயின்றார் பலதுறையும்
தந்தமது நற்றுறையிற் றாமுயர்ந்து—சிந்தைமலி
ஆசிரியத் தொண்டும் அடையவருள் கல்லூரி
மாசிரியச் செய்யும் மகி.

யாற்றிலே நீந்தி யெழவும் பெருவெள்ளம்
யாற்றிலே யெய்தினெதிர்க்கவும்—ஏற்றவகை
மெய்ப்பயிற்சி பெற்று விளங்கும் மகார் பலரை
இப்பொழுது பெற்றாள் இவள்.

உயிர்காக்க வேண்டும் உதவி யியற்ற
உயிர்காக்கு மாற்றிலே ஓடம்—செயிர்போக்கி
ஓட்ட வறியும் ஒரு சிலரைப் பெற்றுள்ளாள்
ஈட்ட மகார் கொண்ட இவள்.

படை குடி கூழமைச்சுப் பார்காக்க வேண்டும்
நடையமைத்தார் வள்ளுவர் நன்றே—படைவகுப்பு
மாணவர்க்கு வாய்ப்ப வகுத்தாள் கலைச்செல்வி
பூணலுற்ற நல்லோர் பொருட்டு.

தோற்றப் பொலிவு சுடரும் கலை நிலையம்
ஆற்றற் சிறப்பும் அமைவுதிலை—ஏற்றம்
எவையெலாம் உண்டோ இருநிலத்தில் மாண்பாம்
அவையெலாம் உண்டே அனைக்கு

இதந்தர வாழ்வுள் எவையும் பொருந்தச்
சுதந்திரம் கண்டோம் சுவைத்தோம்—சுதந்திர
நாட்டிற் பணிபுரிய நன்மக்கள் பல்லாரை
ஈட்டித் தருவாள் இவள்.

தனக்கெனவே வாழ்ந்து தனத்தையே தேடி
இனக்கெனவே வாழா இழிவு—நினைப்பனைத்தும்
போக்கிப் புவியின் பொதுநலத்தைப் பேணுநரை
ஆக்கித் தருவாள் அமைந்து.

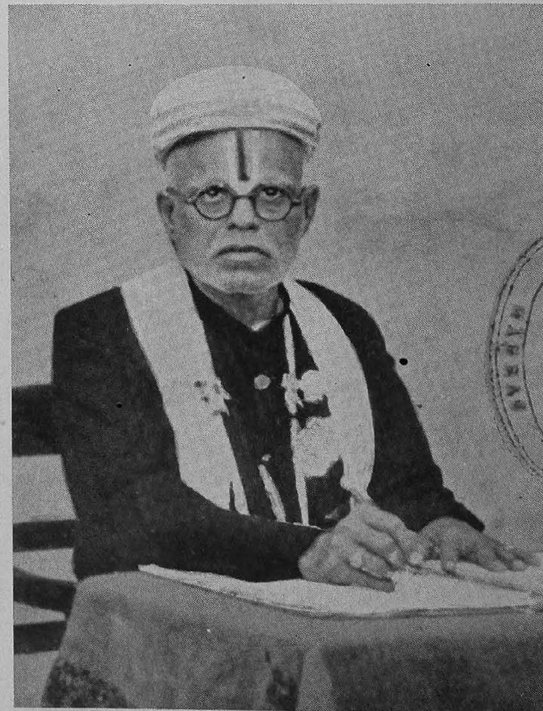
ஒருநூறாண் டெய்தும் உயர்வையே யெண்ணி
இருநூறு முந்நூறு மேற—வருநூறும்
ஆண்டு பலவும் அருங்கலையின் கோவிலாய்
நீண்டு நிமிர்வாள் நிலத்து.

செல்வம் செழிக்கும் திருக்குடந்தை மாநகரிற்
கல்வி வளர்க்கும் கலை நிலையம்—ஓவ்வி(து)
இயற்றுமவர் சேவை யியைந்து பல்லாண்டு
பயிற்றுக மாணவர்க்குப் பண்பு.

நா. கனகராஜன்



Pandit P. Rangachariar



R. V. Krishnamachariar



Prof. B. HANUMANTHA RAO



Prof. T. K. HANUMANTHA RAO

SECTION IV

Mahamahopadhyaya Pandit Rangachariar

Born in 1833, in Mannargudi, Pandit Rangachariar was the son of the great Vedic and Sastraic scholar Peruvazhundan Krishnamachariar. His father, who belonged to the fast-dying race of orthodox Pandits, himself educated his boy, imparting to him not only his vast knowledge but training in him those qualities of fearlessness and sincerity, which marked Pandit Rangachariar throughout his life. Brought up in the orthodox tradition, like his father, Sri Rangachariar was appointed Court Pandit at Pudukottah. Very soon the opportunity presented itself to him to demonstrate his independence of mind. Not caring for the feelings of the Raja in a Sastraic discussion, Sri Rangachariar gave an original interpretation of a passage in dispute and earned for himself the title of *"Karar Vadhi"* (straightforward speaker).

The same fearlessness characterized him, when he came to occupy the Sanskrit chair in the College in 1874. He could compel an English Principal who smoked in his neighbourhood to apologize to him for that. As a teacher, he had the reputation of being most profound and unrivalled, especially in grammar. He had an intuitive sense of perfect proportion in teaching, with not a single superfluous word; his exposition of the Sanskrit classics, (which he could repeat from memory) shone with lucidity. He did not, like lesser men, make a display of pedantry.

After a service of about 25 years, Rangachariar retired from service in 1897, and the next year he was awarded the title of Mahamahopadhyaya.

In controversy, he could maintain his stand with characteristic stoutness of heart and obstinacy, unmindful of arrayed opposition. Above all, in all his long life of 86 years, he never for once spoke of himself, never for once sought for patronage and, in the words of Sir P. S. Sivaswami Iyer, "He was a man of saintly life and of the highest character and you can have no more precious inheritance from him than the example of his life."

Mahamahopadhyaya R. V. Krishnamachariar

My most revered Guru, Abhinava Bhatta Bana, Sabda-Tharka-Alankara-Vidyabhushana, Panditharaja, Vidvatkavi R. V. Krishnamachariar, one of the foremost of Sanskrit scholars in India, was on the staff of this College for sixteen years. During this period he was uniformly treated with the highest respect and kindness by all the Principals. Mr. R. M. Statham who was then the Director of Public Instruction was the first gentleman to congratulate him on the award of Mahamahopadhyaya title.

Long before Sri Krishnamachariar joined service here, he had established himself as a Sanskrit scholar combining in him Oriental erudition and intimate acquaintance with critical methods of research usually associated with Western savants. His scholarly prefaces to and commentaries on works like *Vasavadatta*, *Priyadarsika*, *Parvatiparinaya*, *Achyutarayabhyudaya* and a number of other works published by the "VANI VILAS PRESS" of Srirangam had been highly appreciated by indologists like Sylvan Levi and L. H. Gray. His editions of rare works in the *Vyakarana Grantharatnavali* series, and his abridged editions of *Kadambari* and *Harshacharita* of Bhatta Bana were some of his outstanding literary achievements. He has in all published about forty works in Sanskrit and Tamil for creating an abiding love for the Sanskrit language in the High School and College students. He has also written a number of poems like *Anyapadesa Sataka*, and *Subhashita Sataka*. His Tamil translations of select scenes from forty-nine Sanskrit dramas appeared in the "SWADESAMITRAN WEEKLY." In short, he was a prolific writer of a high order.

This great scholar studied the various branches of Sanskrit Language and Literature under great Acharyas like Gita Lakshmanachar. He used to refer to them with sincere devotion and unbounded gratitude.

Appreciating Sri Krishnamachariar's admirable gift of eloquence in Sanskrit as also his writings, reminiscent of

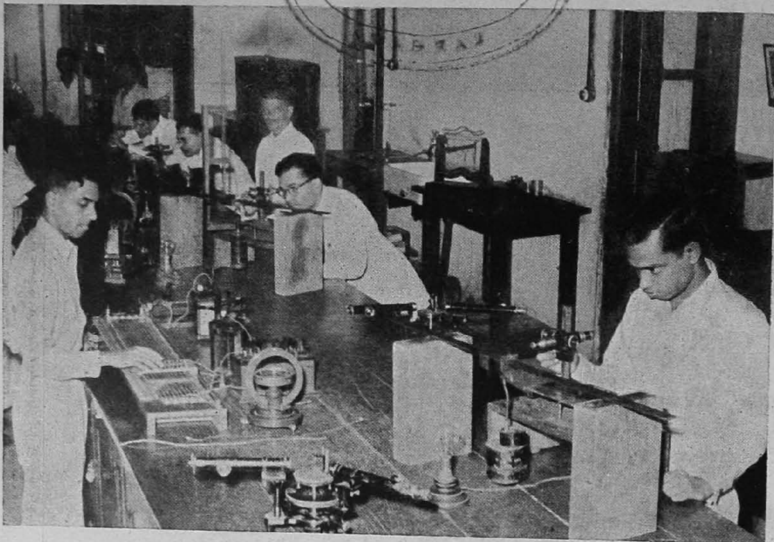
Bhatta Bana, Sri Manavikraman Ettan Rajah, the Zamorin of Calicut, conferred on him the title of Abhinava Bhatta Bana, Sabda-Tarka-Alankara-Vidyabhushana, and presented him with a gold medal in 1903. At a *Sadas*, in 1933, the 9th Prince of Cochin awarded a gold medal and the title of Panditharaja to the Pandit who also received the Maharaja's gold medal for his pamphlet in Malayalam, entitled *Archavatara Vaibhavam.* (It may be mentioned here, that his first appointment was as a Malayalam Pandit in the St. Joseph's College, Trichy!) The Government of India honoured him with the title of Mahamahopadhyaya in 1934. In 1942, H. H. Sri Chandrasekhara Saraswati Swamigal of the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam blessed him with the title of "*Vidvatkavi.*" His lectures on Bana at the Madras Sanskrit Academy and on the authorship of *Parvati Parinaya* at the Madras Oriental Conference in 1924 were the delight of Sanskrit Scholars.

Sri Krishnamachariar was a strict disciplinarian. He would never allow any students to enter the class-room with the shoes on. He himself set the example by leaving his chappals outside. With his thick facial mark, long over-coat, the upper-cloth running across the chest, silk turban and lustrous face, he was awe-inspiring. I should hasten to remark that his kindness to the students was unlimited. He used to teach many of us advanced Sanskrit texts in his house. His lessons were always delightful. In teaching Kalidasa and Bana, his two favourite authors, he would in his stentorian voice, run through the whole gamut of Sanskrit Literature. Despite his unfailing scholarship he would never go to the class without going through the lessons once. When questioned about this he observed that the classics always revealed a hidden meaning at every reading. He was very resourceful in explaining things. When a boy asked him as to how the mountain could be called "*bhudhara*" while it was borne by the earth, he replied that the mountain was a screw, holding on the earth tightly and that the portion of the former seen above the surface of the latter was but the screw-head.

Sparkling wit was one of his characteristics. His jokes were always refined and literary in character. When he became poor of eyesight after retirement, he remarked to one of



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his old colleagues thus, "I have no *Vyaktiviveka* nowadays, but only *Dhwanyaloka*, meaning he could distinguish people only by their voice.

He was a very kind-hearted soul. He used to come to the College in a bullock-cart with three or four students, picked on the way, at various points. He would never allow the cartman to drive the dumb animal fast. When once the cartman pricked the bullock with the goad, he jumped out of the cart in protest and walked the whole distance to the College.

He owned a big library containing printed books and rare palm-leaf manuscripts (in Sanskrit, Malayalam, Telugu and Kanarese) which he used for his own editions and also loaned to others for their publications. All the printed books had marginal notes written legibly in his own hand. These were indeed his life-long companions.

The Pandit was a great lover of music. He saw to it that all his children were taught Carnatic music by experts. He himself knew to play on the Violin. He would now and then sing melodiously. He directed the Sanskrit Drama during the College Day Celebrations annually and trained the actors in singing the verses in various *Ragas*. Once, he himself took the role of Kanva in *Sakūntalam*. On the day preceding his death, he heard "Manasa-Sanchara-Re" of Sadasiva Brahmendra, sung to him.

May the sacred memory of Sri R. V. Krishnamachariar whose portrait adorns the walls of our College inspire and enthuse students of Sanskrit all the world over, for centuries to come!

Sarasakavi R. Appannachar

வித்துவான் தியாகராச செட்டியார்

சென்னைப் பல்கலைக் கழகம் 1857இல் தோன்றியது. பம்பாய், கல்கத்தா பல்கலைக் கழகங்கள் ஏறத்தாழ இதே காலத்தில்தான் தோன்றின. இம் மூன்றும் தான் இந்தியாவிலேயே மிகப் பழைய பல்கலைக் கழகங்கள். இவை தோன்றுவதற்கு மூன்றாண்டுகட்கு முன்னர் 1854இல் ஒரு சிறு கல்வி நிலையமாகத் தோன்றியது இப் போதைய குடந்தை அரசினர் கல்லூரி. அதாவது 19ஆம் நூற்றாண்டின் பிற்பாதியிலும் பிறகும் தமிழகத்தில் அறிவொளி வீசி வந்திருப்பது இக் கலைக் கழகம். இதில் நாடு புகழ, பணியாற்றிய பேராசிரியர்களும் கற்ற மாணவரில் உலகறிய ஓங்கியவர்களும் பலர். அப் பேராசிரியர் மரபில் வந்த நம் வித்வான் தியாகராச செட்டியார் அவர்களைப்பற்றியது இக்கட்டுரை.

பழைய தமிழாசிரியர்கள் மாணவர்க்குக் கல்வி பயிற்றும் முறை இப் போதைய முறையைவிடப் பெரிதும் வேறுபட்டது. சென்ற நூற்றாண்டில் ஆங்கிலேயர் கல்வி முறைப்படி அமைந்த பள்ளிகளில் அந்த முறையில் தமிழ்ப்பாடம் பயிற்றுவதென்பது ஒரு எளிய காரியமன்று. சுருங்கக் கூறின் தமிழ்ப் பாடம் கல்விப் பயிற்சியில் ஒரு ஒதுங்கிய பாடமாகத் தான் இருக்கும். தமிழாசிரியர் வாழ்க்கையும், நடையுடை தோற்றமும், கொள்கையும், ஆங்கிலேய முறைமைக்குப் பெரிதும் ஒத்துவராத செய்திகள். முப்பது ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முந்திய காலப் பகுதி வரையில் இந்த நிலை ஏறத்தாழ இப்படியே நீடித்து வந்தது. தமிழாசிரியரின் ஊதியம் மற்ற ஆசிரியர் ஊதியத்தைவிடப் பல மடங்கு குறைவுடையதாய்த் தேங்கிக் கிடக்கும். இதிலிருந்து மாணவர்களின் ஈடுபாடு தமிழில் எவ்வாறு இருக்குமென்பதை ஒருவாறு ஊகிக்கலாம்.

இந்த நிலையிலும் தமிழறிஞர் பலர் சிறந்த பேராசிரியர்களாக விளங்கி, கற்றவரெல்லாரும் புகழ, தொழில் நடாத்தினர் என்றால் உண்மையில் வியப்புக்கும் மதிப்புக்கும் உரிய செய்தி அது.

வித்துவான் தியாகராச செட்டியார் குடந்தை அரசினர் கல்லூரியில் பதினைந்து ஆண்டுகள் பணியாற்றிய பேராசிரியர். பேருக்கு ஆசிரியராக இன்றி இவருக்கு முன் இருந்தவரும் இவரும் இவருக்குப் பின் இருந்தவரும் உண்மையிலேயே பேராசிரியர்கள்.

இவர் தந்தையார் சிதம்பரஞ் செட்டியார், ஊர் திருச்சிக்கு அருகே உள்ள பூவாளூர். தோன்றியது 1826இல். தந்தைவழியாக நிலபுலங்கள் பல உடையவர். இவருக்குப் புலமையளித்தவர் திரிசிரபுரம் மகாவித்வான் மீனாட்சிசுந்தரம் பிள்ளை. படைப்பயிற்சிப் பள்ளியில் சில காலமும், திருவரங்கத்து உயர்நிலைப் பள்ளியில் எட்டு ஆண்டுகளும் (1867 முதல்), குடந்தை அரசினர் கல்லூரியில் 15 ஆண்டுகளும் (1865—1880) பணியாற்றினர். பிறகு உடல் நிலை காரணமாக வேலையிலிருந்துவிலகினர். மறைவு எய்தியது 1888இல்.

தியாகராஜ செட்டியாரின் சம்பளவிகிதம் சிறிது குறிப்பிடத் தக்கது. முதற் பள்ளியில் முதன் முதல் வேலையில் அமர்ந்த போது சம்பளம் முழுசாய் 10 ரூபாய்."

இவருக்கு அக்காலத்தில் குடும்பத்திற்காகச் செலவழிந்தது 5 ரூபாய் என்று இவரே சொல்லியிருக்கிறார். மறு பள்ளிக்கூடம் போனபோதும் முதலில் 10 ரூபாய்தான் சம்பளம். இவருடைய அருந்திறமையினைப் பாராட்டி, திடீரென்று சம்பளத்தை அதிகப்படுத்தினார்கள். அதாவது 15 ரூபாய்!! இது வழக்கமாகச் சம்பளம் உயரும் விகிதத்தில் 2½ மடங்கு அதிகம். வேலையிலிருந்து பேராசிரியராக விலகியபோது சம்பளம் ரூ 50. இந்த 50 ரூபாய் சம்பளம் அரை நூற்றாண்டுக்கு மேல் நீடித்திருந்தது. 'மேல்' என்ற வார்த்தை ஒரு *இருபது ஆண்டுகளுக்குச் சமம்.

தியாகராச செட்டியார் இக் கல்லூரியின் தமிழாசிரியராக வந்தவிதம் மிக விந்தையானது. கொட்டையூர் சிவக்கொழுந்து தேசிகர் என்பவர் ஒரு தமிழ்ப் பெரும் புலவர். அவர் மகனாரும் மகாவித்துவான் மீனாட்சிசுந்தரம்பிள்ளையவர்கள் மாணவருமான சாமிநாத தேசிகர் என்ற பேரறிஞர் இவ்வரசினர் கல்லூரியில் பேராசிரியராக வீற்றிருந்து, வேறு கல்லூரிக்கு மாறியபோது அந்த இடம் காலியாயிற்று. அப்போது கல்லூரித் தலைவராயிருந்தவர் டபிள்யூ ஏ, போர்ட்டர்துரை. துணைத் தலைமை ஆசிரியர் திரு கோபால ராவ். இவர் தமிழிலும் நல்ல தேர்ச்சியுடையவர். தமிழாசிரியர் இடத்திற்கு ஒருவர் நியமனமாகும் வரையில் தமிழ்ப் பாடங்களுள் ஒரு பகுதியைக் கோபால்ராவே நடத்திவந்தார். இலக்கண பாடங்களும் இவர் நடத்துவதுண்டு. ஒரு நாள் நன்னூல் சூத்திரம் ஒன்றைப் பற்றிக் கேள்விகள் கேட்டுவந்த போது ஒரு மாணவன் ஆசிரியர் சொல்லித்தந்ததைவிட அதிகமாகவும் விளக்கமாகவும் விடையளித்தான். அதுவும் இலக்கணத்தில் ஒரு சிக்கலான பாடத்தில். திகைத்துப்போய்,

"உன் பெயர் என்ன?" என்று ஆதரவுடன் கேட்டார் கோபால்ராவ்.

"தேவாஜி ராவ்"

"நீ இந்தப் பள்ளியில் எவ்வளவு காலமாகப் படிக்கிறாய்? இதற்குமுன் எங்கே யாரிடம் படித்தாய்?"

"இந்த வருஷம்தான் இங்கே வந்தேன். இதற்குமுன் ஸ்ரீரங்கம் பள்ளிக்கூடத்தில் தியாகராச செட்டியாரிடம் படித்தேன். அவரிடம்தான் நன்னூலைக் கற்றுக்கொண்டேன்" என்றான்.

ஏதோ ஒரு புதிய பொருளைக் கண்டெடுத்தவர்போல வியந்து நின்றார் கோபால்ராவ். எவ்வாறு செட்டியார் பிறகு அரசினர் கல்லூரிக்கு வந்திருக்கக்கூடுமென்பதை விவரிக்கவேண்டியதில்லை. சுருக்கமாக மாணவர்க்குத் தந்த கல்விச் செல்வம், பிறகு தியாகராச செட்டியாருக்கு வாழ்க்கைச் செல்வமாய் மாறிற்று.

செட்டியாருடைய தமிழ்ப்புலமை ஆழமும் அழுத்தமும் உடையது. தமிழ் மரபுக்கு மாறாக ஏதேனும் கண்டால் அவருக்கு அடங்காத கோபம் வரும். கொண்ட கொள்கையில் மிகவும் பிடிவாதக்காரர். தகுதி, செல்வம், பதவிகளில் எவ்வளவு பெரியவரானாலும் நேருக்கு நேரே துச்சமாகப் பச்சையாய்க் கண்டித்துவிடுவார். நன்னூலைச் சுருக்கிப் பதிப்பித்த கும்பகோணத்து வக்கீல் ஒருவரும், குறளைத் திருத்திய ஒரு பாதிரியாரும் இவர் போல் இன்னும் பலரும், பிறரும் இவரிடத்தில் அகப்பட்டு மிகவும் தடுமாறி இருக்கிறார்கள். அதாவது உடம்புபோனால் போகிறது கையை விட்டால் போதும் என்ற நிலைக்கு வந்து விடுவார்கள்.

இவருடைய அருஞ் சிறப்புகளைப் பாராட்டாத ஆசிரியர் மாணவர்கள் இல்லை எனலாம். நாடறிய வாழ்ந்த ஒரு பேரறிஞர். கல்லூரியிலும் ஊரிலும் இவருக்கிருந்த பெரும் மதிப்புக்கு அறிகுறியாக இவர் உருவம் கல்லூரியின் தெற்குத் தாழ்வாரத்தில் கிழக்கிலிருந்து மேற்காக ஐந்தாவது கம்பம் ஒன்றில் செதுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. கோபால் ராவ் அவர்களின் உருவமும் குதிரையில் இருந்ததுபோல அதன் பக்கத்தில் செதுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. 4-12-1887 இல் இச் செய்தியை அவர் தாமே ஒரு கடிதத்தில் குறிப்பிட்டிருக்கிறார்.

மாணவர்களின் தேவையும், நிலையும், அறிந்து இனிப்பாக, எளிதாகப் பாடம் சொல்லும் தன்மை உடையவர் தியாகராச செட்டியார். மாணவர்களும் இவர்பால் நிரம்பிய மதிப்பும், அன்பும் வழிபாடும் உடையவர்கள். இன்றைக்கும் சிறந்த நூலாக வழங்கும் தமிழ் வரலாறு என்ற நூலை எழுதிய தஞ்சை நீதிபதி திரு. சீனிவாச பிள்ளை முதலாகப் பல பெருமக்கள் இவரிடம் தமிழ் கற்றவர்கள். இவரைத் தமது ஆசிரியர் என்று சொல்லிக் கொள்வதையும் இவர் தமிழ் சொல்லும் அருமையைப் பேசுவதையும் ஒரு பெருமையாக நினைப்பவர்கள்.

தியாகராச செட்டியாரவர்களும் இவ்வாறே தம்முடைய ஆசிரியர் மீனாட்சி சுந்தரம் பிள்ளையிடம் மாறாத அன்பும், அளப்பரும் மதிப்பும் உடையவர். அவர் மீது அன்பு கனிந்து எழுதிய பாடல்களில் ஒன்று:

"பெற்றாருள் நின்னைப்பெற் றார்போல் பெற்றார்களும்; பேண்பிறப்பை
உற்றாருளும் நின்னைப் போலவுற் றார்களும்; உன்னருளை
நற்றா ரணியுள் எனைப்போற்பெற் றார்களும்; நாடுறினும்
மற்றார்மூற் றோர்தரும் மீனாட்சி சுந்தர மாமணியே".

அ. கிருஷ்ணமூர்த்தி,
தமிழ் விரியுரையாளர்,
அரசினர் கல்லூரி, குடந்தை.



THE PHYSICS BLOCK



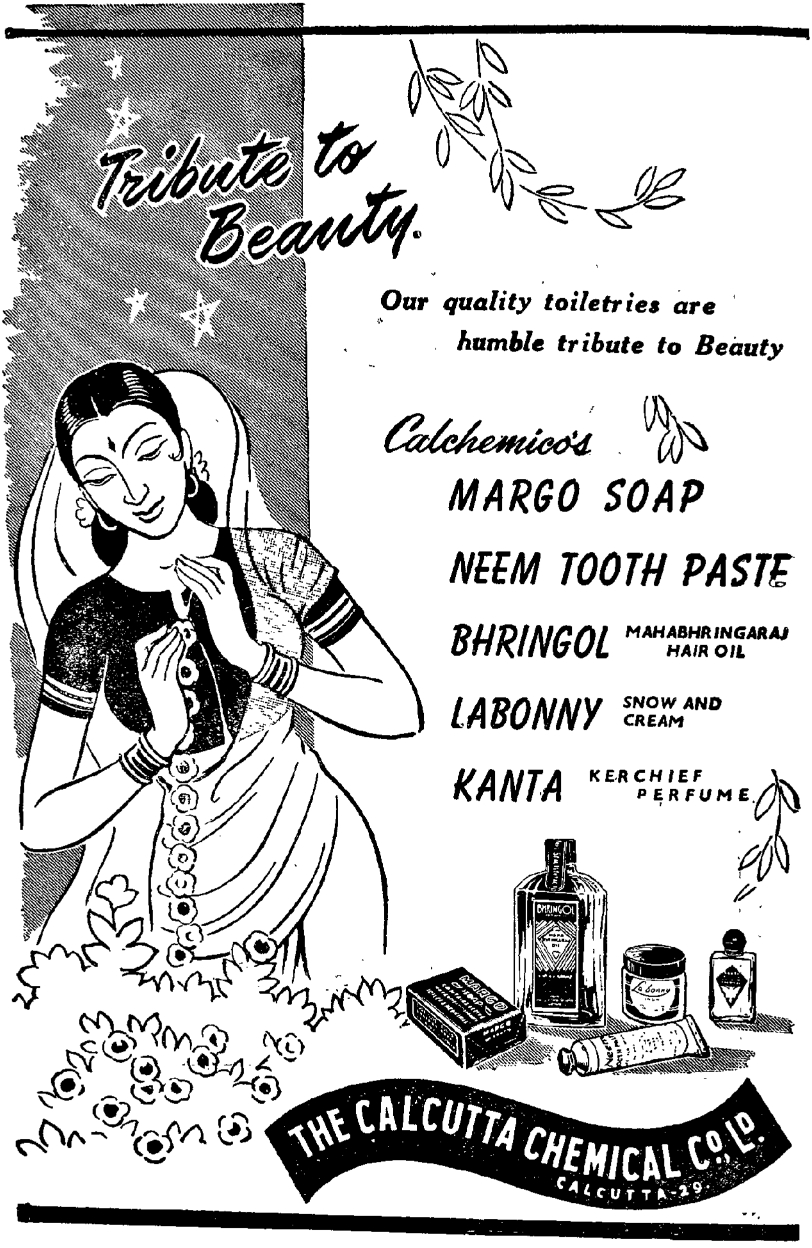
INSIDE THE PHYSICS LABORATORY



MISS INDIA *(Indrani Rahman)*
gave a benefit performance in aid of the Centenary on 30-9-54.



கற்பனைத் திறனும்,
கருத்துயர் கதையும்,
கண்கவர் வனப்பும்
கலந்த ஓவியங்கள்
தரும்
கலைக்கூடம்
AVM
புரொடக்ஷன்ஸ்
ஏவிஎம் ஸ்டூடியோஸ் • ஆற்காட் ரோட் • கோடம்பாக்கம் • சென்னை-24 •


Tribute to Beauty.
Our quality toiletries are humble tribute to Beauty
Calchemico's
MARGO SOAP
NEEM TOOTH PASTE
BHRINGOL MAHABHRINGARAJ HAIR OIL
LABONNY SNOW AND CREAM
KANTA KERCHIEF PERFUME
BHRINGOL
MARGO
La bonny
THE CALCUTTA CHEMICAL Co. LD.
CALCUTTA-29

ஐம்மணி மாலை

1

வினாவிடை

நேரிசை வெண்பா

பூவையர்நீர் மொள்வதெது? பொங்கலடைத் திங்களெது?
கோவையர்மேற் கொள்வதெது? கூடிமக்கள்—வாழ்வதெது?
தென்குடந்தைக் கல்லூரி! சேய்மையெதிர்ச் சுட்டின்பே
ரென்குடந்தைக் கல்லூரி யே.

2

மடக்கு

கட்டளைக் கலித்துறை

குடந்தைக்கல் லூரியை யெய்திட மக்கடங் கோதிலன்புக்
குடந்தைக்கல் லூரியை யெய்திடச் செய்ம்மெனக் கூறியின்பாய்க்
குடந்தைக்கல் லூரியை யப்படு மோவெனக் கொண்டுவந்து
குடந்தைக்கல் லூரியை யெப்படி யேனுங் குறுகுவரே.

3

மாணவராற்றுப்படை (Cambridge of South India)

பன்னிருசீர் கழிநெடிலடி ஆசிரிய விருத்தம்

கற்றோர் பரவும் தேம்சுநன்
கரையார் கல்விக் கழகத்தே
கற்போன்; எங்கள் கால்டுவெலும்
"கன்னித் தமிழ்போல் உலகத்தே
மற்றோர் மொழியான் காண்கிலேன்
மறவீர்" என்றார்; ஆதலினால்
வந்தேன் அன்பாய்த் தமிழ்கற்கும்
வாயா தென்ன, மதிவல்லோய்!
கற்றோர் தொகையில் யானொருவன்
கல்வித் துறையின் கலையெல்லாம்
கற்போர் பெருக நூற்றாண்டைக்
கடந்த குடந்தைக் கல்லூரி
வற்றா வளநீர் காவேரி
மருங்கே யுளதால் நுமதேபோன்ம்
மனம்போற் கற்றுப் பயனெய்த
வல்லே யின்னே செல்லாயே

4

பயன் பாடு

இணையடிக் கட்டளைக் கலிப்பா

தேனை நாடிச் சுரும்பினஞ் செல்வதும்
செல்வ நாடி யிரவலர் செல்வதும்
செம்மை நாடிநல் லோர்மனஞ் செல்வதும்
செயலை நாடிவல் லோருளஞ் செல்வதும்
கானை நாடி யினநிரை செல்வதும்
களவை நாடித் தலைமகள் செல்வதும்
கடலை நாடி முகிலினஞ் செல்வதும்
கரையை நாடிக் கலம்பல செல்வதும்
மோனை நாடிக் கவியடி செல்வதும்
மொழியை நாடி யசைமுதல் செல்வதும்
முறையை நாடி மெலியவர் செல்வதும்
முனையை நாடி மறவர்கள் செல்வதும்
வானை நாடி யுலகர்கண் செல்வதும்
வயலை நாடி யுழவர்கள் செல்வதும்
மாரி நாடுங் குடந்தைக்கல் லூரியை
மக்கள் நாடிச் செலுவது போலுமே.

5

வண்டு விடு தூது

கொச்சகக் கலிப்பா

கல்லை யிடைக்குறைத்துக் கற்போர் மனம்போலப்
பல்ல வருமுவந்து பல்லாண்டு வாழ்கவெனச்
சொல்ல வுடனீயும், சோலைவாய்ப் பைங்கிள்ளை
முல்லை முகைபோன்ற முத்தார் முறுவலார்
நல்லை யெனப்பாடும் நாட்பூந் துறைப்பாடல்
சில்லை யுவந்து திரிகா விரிநீத்தம்
கொல்லை வளற்றும் குடந்தைக்கல் லூரியதன்
எல்லை யிடைச்சென் றினிதூதாய் கோத்தும்பீ!

குறிப்புரை

நீர் மொள்வது—குடம். பொங்கல் என்னும் சொல்லை அடைமொழியாக உடைய திங்கள்—மாதம்—தை. கோவையார்—பெண்கள் இடையில் அணியும் காஞ்சி, மேகலை, பருமம் முதலிய கோவைகள். மேற்கொள்வது—கோவையில் பதிப்பது—கல்—(ரத்னம்) மக்கள் கூடி வாழ்வது—ஊர். தென்—அழகு; கு—நிறம். உடந்தைக்கு—பொருந்திய. அல்—இரவு. ஊரி—ஊர்வது, செல்வது. இரவில் செல்வது—மதி. அழகிய நிறமுடைய மதிபோன்றவளே! இது மகடூஉ முன்னிலை. சேய்மை எதிர்—அண்மை. அண்மைச் சுட்டு—இ. குடம் தை கல் ஊர் இ—குடந்தைக் கல்லூரி.

2

குடம்—வெல்லம், இனிமை. தைக்கு—அழகிய. அல்—இரவு. ஊரி—ஊர்பவன். அல் ஊரி—இரவில் செல்பவன்—சந்திரன்—மதி—கலைமதி—கலையறிவு. எய்திட—அடைய மக்கள் தம் கோதுஇல் அன்புக்குள் தந்தைக்கு அல் ஊரியை எய்திட. மக்கள்—மைந்தர். தம் கோதுஇல் அன்புக்குள்—தம் குற்றமற்ற அன்புக் குள்ளாக்கி. அல்—வறுமை, அறியாமை. ஊரியை எய்திட—அகல. அறியாமை அகல. செய்ம் என—செய்வோம். எனத் தந்தைக்குக் கூறி, தம் குற்றமற்ற அன்புக் குள்ளாக்கி; கல்லூரிக்கு அனுப்ப உடன்படுத்தி. குடந்தைக்கு அல் ஊர் இயைப் படுமோ எனக்கொண்டு உவந்து—குடந்தைக்கு வேறு ஊர் ஒப்பாகுமோ என்று எண்ணி மகிழ்ந்து, விரும்பி. அல் ஊர்—வேறு ஊர். குறுகுவர்—அடைவர். அக் கல்லூரியில் சேர்வர்.

3

பரவும்—பெருகும், போற்றும். தேமசு—River Thames. கல்விக் கழகம்—University of Cambridge.

4

கான்—காடு. இனநிரை—மாட்டுக்கூட்டம். களவை நாடிச் செல்லல்—தலைவி குறியிடஞ் சேரல். கவியடி—செய்யுளடி. அசைமுதல்—அசையை முதலாக உடையது—சீர். இவ்விரண்டையும் நாடுவோர் புலவர். முனை—போர்க்களம். இவை யெல்லாம் பயனடைய என்பதாம்.

5

கல்லை இடைக் குறைத்துக் கற்போர் — கலை கற்போர். கல்லை — கலை — இடைக் குறை. நீ என்றது — கோத்தும்பியை. முத்து ஆர் — முத்துப் போன்ற முல்லை முகை போன்ற முத்து; முத்துப்போன்ற முறுவல். முறுவல்—பல். நல்லை—நன்றாய்ப் பாடுகிறாய் என. பூந்துறை—அழகிய துறை. நாள்—காலை. துறையிலுள்ள சோலையின் வாய் இருந்து பாடும் பாடல். வாய்—இடம். சில்லை—ஒரு நீர்ப் பறவை, அச்சிறிய நீர்ப்பறவையும் தமிழ்ப் பாடலைக் கேட்கும் தகுதியுடையது குடந்தை என்பது. நீத்தம்—நீர். கொல்லை—கல்லூரித் தோட்டம். வளற்றும்—வளஞ்செய்யும். எல்லை—பக்கம்.

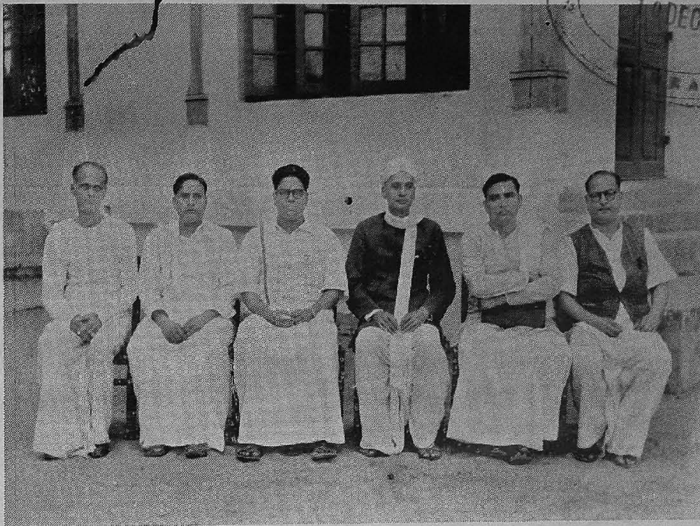
க. கோவிந்தராசன் *B. A. (Hons) B. T.*,
தமிழ்த்துறைத் தலைவர்
அரசினர் கல்லூரி, குடந்தை.

The College Canoe Club

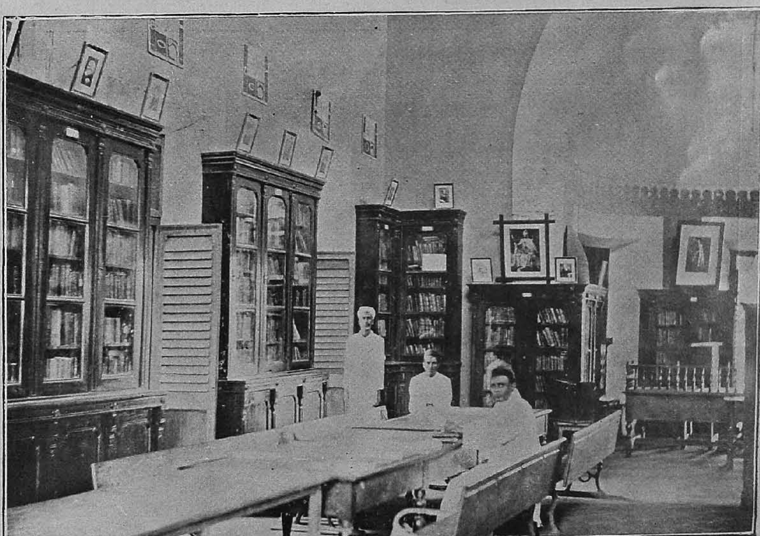
The Kumbakonam College is picturesquely situated on the banks of the Cauvery, which flows on majestically touching the walls of the College with her merry waves. Ideally situated on that side of the river which is removed from the din and the bustle of the town and surrounded by extensive green meadows and gigantic trees, offering cool shade, the College with her sylvan setting and traditional glory, offers an inexhaustible source of inspiration for a high intellectual life and noble manhood. Her tower and dome and regal structure reflected in the waters of the Cauvery, are ever-shining landmarks and monuments of human aspiration, sacrifice and achievement. Whoever breathes the air of her precincts, imbibes with it the spirit of the place.

If the lawns resemble those of Oxford, the boating on the river resembles that of Cambridge. The Canoe Club is a unique feature of the College and the sight of a fleet of boats, rowed up and down the river, by robust young men in their uniforms, in the evening sun, lends to the College a special charm not to be found anywhere else in the south. Many could not have dreamt of the possibilities of the full flowing river, serving as a splendid highway for the College canoes and affording healthy amusement. Many could not have realised the thrill of the water passing along the ribs of the boat, into the blood and brain of man shaking off his sloth and infusing in him a new spirit of daring adventure and splendid experience. There is nothing more poetic, more pleasurable than canoeing on the river and our College affords ample facilities.

The sturdy young men who have had the proud privilege of riding these boats could never forget the hours spent in rowing up and down the river, their strenuous and ambitious efforts to go farther and farther up the stream and their pleasant and effortless downward trips. The memory of the long tours up the river carried out in a spirit of adventure and youthful co-operation, going ahead in the middle of a broad



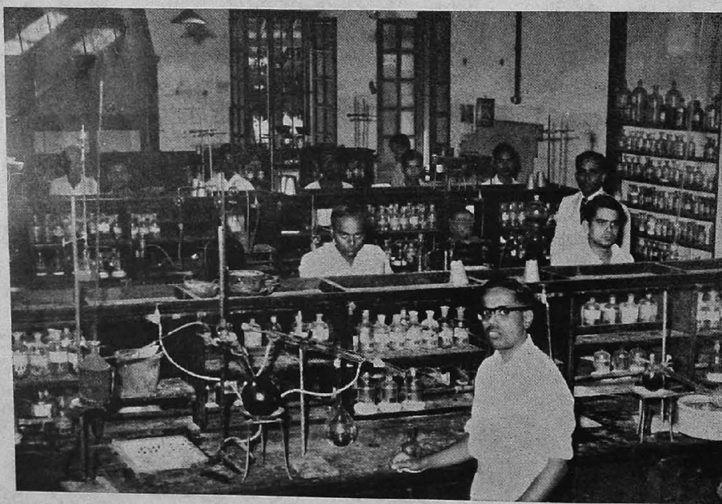
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expanse of water, surrounded by strange scenery, the inquisitive gaze of the rustic onlookers on either bank, the splendid rest and recreation in between strenuous work, and the taste of fruits and sugarcane grown in plenty on the banks would be ever green in their minds.

Generation after generation of young men who have had the benefits of this unique institution, the Canoe Club, owe their deep debt of gratitude to its founder, Principal P. Rajagopala Iyer. His skill in mechanics had stood him in good stead in the matter of building boats for the College fleet. In 1919, there were eight boats, four padding singles by name, "Sankara" "Ganga" "Leila" and "Sarasa", two paddling fours by name "Padma" and "Kamala" and two pair oars "Girija" and "Chittur", all built in the College docks under the personal supervision of Mr. Rajagopala Iyer.

The first annual Regatta was held on 14th September 1919, before a large gathering of distinguished ladies and gentlemen. This was a gala function and the shore was profusely decorated with colourful festoons and buntings. Crowds of people had lined up the entire bank and witnessed the boat races in wonder and excitement. The annual Regatta has ever since continued to be the same festive occasion all these years.

In 1920 there were as many as twenty-two canoes including the newly constructed paddling tens, "Mangala", named after the Goddess of the town. The first long tour was succesfully attempted with the active encouragement of the Principal, Mr. Rajagopala Iyer, who acted as the coxswain. The boats were rowed up to Swamimalai, a distance of five miles up the stream on one occasion and to Tiruvadamarudur five miles down the river on another occasion.

Encouraged by this initial success, the members made the first trip to Kapistalam in 1921. At Kapistalam the party was warmly received and sumptuously entertained by the Moopanar of Kapistalam. The Club is extremely grateful to the family of Sri. R. Govindaswamy Moopanar, whose hospitality has been so generously extended to the canoe tourists of the College on every occasion they went there.

A record of muscular strength and human endurance was set up by the sturdy members of the Club in 1923 when the crew reached Tiruvaiyar, twenty miles up-stream.

A new paddling tens, "Rajagopal", named after the founder, was constructed and launched in the year 1926. With the construction of this boat, a trip to Trirukkattupalli 30 miles up the river was successfully accomplished.

In 1941, the two rowing fours were taken up to Thirukkattupalli and a fresh record was set up by taking one of the boats to Grand Anicut, thus covering a total distance of forty miles up the river. The party was warmly received by Sri Madhava Rao at Koiladi. He and others of his family have extended the same hospitality to the College Canoe men whenever they went there in the succeeding years.

In 1942, all previous records were broken by the members of the Club when they reached as far up as Tiruchirapalli, 50 miles from Kumbakonam. This trip was a memorable record of the fulfilment of youthful ambition, courage, enterprise and co-operation. For the first time the boats were pulled up under the Railway bridge at Trichy where the river is very wide.

With the free availability of materials in 1951, all the boats were re-constructed and this enabled the members to make a grand tour up to Mutharasanallur, 55 miles up the river.

There are at present 14 boats in good condition and all the students who have passed the swimming test in the river are members of the Canoe Club. This year, the members of the Club have beat all previous records by taking the two rowing sixes up to Upper Anicut in September 10 miles west of Tiruchirapalli covering a total distance of 61 miles up-stream in four-and-a-half days with P. S. Krishnamoorthy as Captain, M. Doraiswami, K. Nagarajan, G. Viswanathan and N. Ambalraj as Vice-Captains and Mr. L. Rajagopalan as Patron. This marks the greatest achievement of the Canoe Club in all the years of its existence and quite fittingly this coincides with the Centenary Celebrations of the College.

L. Rajagopalan

The Kumbakonam College Old Boys' Association

As you enter the main old buildings of the Kumbakonam College, you come upon a hexagonal hall full of portraits of great personalities. A feeling of reverence and respect creeps in upon you and as you turn your eye from portrait to portrait, your mind takes in at a glance the great gallery of brilliant students and professors who have left foot-prints on the sands of time and hallowed the memories and enriched the reputation and traditions of the Kumbakonam College.

The buildings and their setting by the flowing Cauveri no doubt lend a picturesque view to the whole atmosphere, but it is not brick and mortar or their artistic setting that brought the Kumbakonam College her great reputation. It was the hard work of the great professors who taught here and the brilliant students who sat at their feet drawing inspiration and lessons from them that have built the glorious name and fame of the College these hundred years.

In a big educational institution like this, students come in and pass out almost in an eternal procession. To bind them together by the silken chord of affection and gratitude an organisation is necessary. The Kumbakonam College Old Boys' Association has more than fulfilled this mission. Besides keeping alive the link between the College and the Old Boys, it has helped in a substantial measure many a poor boy to prosecute his studies without the pangs of penury chilling his intellectual ardour. By way of abundant scholarships and prizes, the Association has not only perpetuated the names of the distinguished Old Boys but also helped the deserving boys in the pursuit of their studies.

More than all, the Kumbakonam College Old Boys' Association has acted as the *loco parentis* to the College, studying its wants and working for its growth. Being an institution managed by Government, the College has had to suffer from all the defects which inhere in a Governmental machinery. The Old Boys' Association has fought for the development of the College,

the introduction of new courses of study and the upgrading of the College into a residential University with honours courses.

At one time in the thirties of this century, the strength of the College was at its lowest ebb and there seems to have been a proposal to abolish it. The Association, however, convinced the Government of the unsoundness of the proposal and the crisis was averted.

In 1895 the idea of an organisation of Old Boys was first mooted and there was a colourful celebration. It drew most of its distinguished Old Boys from far and near. But the enthusiasm did not take concrete form till 1915 when Mr. R. M. Statham as President and Principal, formed and registered the Association. Since then the Association has had an unbroken record of service to the *Alma Mater* and to the present students and has been celebrating the Old Boys' Day every year in collaboration with the College and has been of ever-increasing usefulness.

It has also helped to keep alive the bond between the College and the Old Boys. The dazzling heights to which some of the Old Boys of the College ascended by dint of their inherent abilities and the training they had here at College, have fascinated many a younger boy at College and inspired him to high endeavour. In keeping up the banner of higher ideals and presenting the shining examples of some of its distinguished members before the present generation of students, the Old Boys' Association has proved its great usefulness and established a fine record of progress.

The Rt. Honourable V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, V. P. Madhava Rao, Kasturi Ranga Iyengar, Dr. Rangachari, Mathematician Ramanujan, Sir P. S. Sivaswami Aiyar, Sir K. Srinivasa Iyengar, S. Muthiah Mudaliar and a host of others have shone in disparate walks of life as exemplars to humanity and brought honour and fame to their *Alma Mater* and to our Association. Many scholarships are endowed in their names and the recipients are bound to be inspired by their example. Even to-day the old students of the College are spread throughout the sub-continent serving the country and its administration, enriching political and social life or otherwise adding to her attainments in several directions.

The Kumbakonam College Old Boys' Association has had excellent ruddermen in their Presidents and Secretaries who have piloted the Association safely through many a storm that blew over the fortunes of the College. Mr. Statham was our first President and Sri K. S. Patrachariar, who is still happily with us, our present President. Sri N. Krishnaswami Iyengar, Sri A. Subramania Iyer, Sri T. Krishnaswamy Iyengar Sri T. K. Aravamudha Iyengar, Sri K. Narasimha Iyengar, Sri T. Sampath Iyengar, and my humble self among the Old Boys and Sri K. S. Patrachariar, Sri A. G. Narasimha Iyer, Sri T. M. Margasahayam Chettiar and Sri P. Sankaranarayana Aiyar among the Staff Secretaries have done yeoman service to the Association.

The Old Boys' Association has also secured the provision of boarding and lodging facilities under the Kalyanaraman Charities and the Tiruvalanjuli Kalyanaraman Pillai Charities to a select number of students. It was through the efforts of the Old Boys' Association again that a wealthy gentleman of the town Mr. A. R. Ramaiyer, was persuaded to donate substantially for the construction of a foot-bridge. It was our endeavour that made the Government sanction three lakhs of rupees for the new buildings which stand out to-day as an imposing structure beside the old.

Our institution has become an inseparable limb of the College, helping it to grow in strength, reputation and usefulness.

The Centenary celebrations are being conducted by the Old Boys' Association in collaboration with the College authorities and we hope that during the celebrations when great Chancellors of Universities, the Governor and Ministers of our State gather here, an atmosphere will be created which will facilitate the easy acceptance of our long-cherished proposal.

May the community of the Old Boys of the College grow and be of service to the College and the larger public.

C. L. Aravamudha Iyengar,
Secretary, K. C. O. B. A.

॥ श्रीः ॥

॥ श्रीकुम्भकोणाङ्ग्लविद्यालयः ॥

कवेरजाम्भःपरिमृष्टशोभा
विकासयन्ती हृदयानि नृणाम् ।
का सा वधूर्नैव वधूः पुरी सा
या कुम्भकोणाभिधया समिन्धे ॥ ॥ १ ॥

कुम्भेश्वरः स्वीयकटाक्षपातैः
श्रीशार्ङ्गधन्वा च धनुःप्रभावैः ।
यदन्वहं रक्षति पत्तनं तत्
कथं न कुर्यात् कुशलं जनानाम् ? ॥ ॥ २ ॥

तत्राङ्ग्लविद्यानिलयोऽस्ति कश्चि -
दभ्रंलिहाग्रैस्तरुभिः परीतः ।
यः शिष्यबृन्दार्पितहृद्यविद्यो
दिगन्तविश्रान्तयशाश्चकास्ति ॥ ॥ ३ ॥

विद्यार्थिनस्तत्र विनीतभावाः
प्रज्ञाप्रकर्षोज्ज्वलितात्मविद्याः ।
अमुष्य विद्यानिलयस्य कीर्ति -
मारोपयन्ते विजयध्वजाग्रम् ॥ ॥ ४ ॥

विद्यालयेऽस्मिन् समुपात्तविद्या
जनैः समन्ताद्बहुमन्यमानाः ।
राजन्ति सर्वत्र च भारतोर्व्यां
समुन्नतश्लाघ्यपदाधिरूढाः ॥ ॥ ५ ॥

तस्याद्य विद्यानिलयोत्तमस्य
शतायुषः सम्भृतपुण्यकीर्तेः ।
आघोष्यते हर्षभरावनम्रैः
शताभिषेकः शतशो जनौघैः ॥ ॥ ६ ॥

Pandit K. L. Vyasaraya Sastri

॥ श्रीः ॥

॥ वन्दे मातरम् ॥

मुक्तिज्ञानविधायिपुण्यसरितस्सह्यात्मजायास्तटे
विभ्राणां नवयौवनोचितरसं वृद्धां तु वर्षैश्शतम् ।
यस्या वत्सलतातिरेकविभवाच्छिष्योऽभवं शिक्षको
वन्दे मातरमादरान्मुहुरहं तामद्य विद्याभुवम् ॥ ॥ १ ॥

अधरितमकरन्दां माधुरीं संस्कृतस्य
द्रविडवचस आङ्ग्लव्याहृतेश्चापि सत्त्वम् ।
सुविशदमिह विद्याधाम्नि जानीमहे स्म
निरवधिकरुणार्द्रात्तत्तदाचार्यवर्गात् ॥ ॥ २ ॥

अग्रे तत्र भ्रमरविहगाः स्वागतं व्याहरन्ति
पाद्यं पुण्या वितरति तथा सह्यकन्याऽऽगतेभ्यः ।
अर्घ्यं वृक्षा विदधति फलैस्स्वादुभिश्चापि पुष्पै-
रातिथ्यं किं दृढतरममी शिक्षितारशीलवृद्धैः ! ॥ ॥ ३ ॥

आवर्तभीमां सुकरं तरन्त्यो
नौका असंख्या इह सह्यकन्याम् ।
विबोधयन्तीव नरान् परेशे
भक्तिस्तरेत्कृच्छ्रमभंगुरेति ॥ ॥ ४ ॥

अध्यास्याभ्रंकषमनुतटं भीमकान्तं च हर्म्यं
घण्टा सर्वान् कथयति हितं श्रोत्रपेयैः प्रहारैः ।
जातान्माता मधुरवचनैः स्वान्यथा वत्सलत्वात्
काले प्रज्ञां प्रयतमनसा सात्त्विकीं प्राप्नुतेति ॥ ॥ ५ ॥

केंब्रिड्ज्तुल्यप्रभावा सुविदितगुरुभिः सेविता मान्यविद्या -
शालेयं नो स्वदेत स्मरत इह सदा कस्य वा मानसाय ? ।
भक्तिश्रद्धादिवृद्धैरधिकृतमहितैः पोषिता पीटराद्यैः
कालं निष्काल्य सेयं विदलितकुमतिश्शोभतां श्रेयसे नः ॥ ॥ ६ ॥

R. K. Parthasarathi, M. A., L. T.

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